

GOVERNOR'S NATURAL RESOURCES LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

**April 10-11, 2003
Williamsburg, Virginia**

**Report Prepared by
The Institute for Environmental Negotiation
University of Virginia
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary.....	3
Highlights of the Summit.....	5
Summit Process.....	10
Summit Ideas, Suggestions, Concerns	12
Water Resources.....	12
Goals, Actions, Partnerships and Other Implementation Steps	12
Group 1	12
Group 2	16
Group 3	22
Mini-Plenary Discussions.....	24
Setting the Context for Discussions.....	27
Additional Notes from Work Group Discussions	29
Land Conservation	32
Goals, Actions, Partnerships and Other Implementation Steps	32
Group 1	32
Group 2	36
Mini-Plenary Discussions.....	38
Setting the Context for Discussions.....	42
Additional Notes from the Work Group Discussions	43
Outdoor Recreation Resources	47
Goals, Actions, Partnerships and Other Implementation Steps	47
Group 1	47
Group 2	50
Mini-Plenary Discussions.....	52
Setting the Context for Discussions.....	54
Additional Notes from Work Group Discussions	56
Fisheries and Wildlife Resources.....	58
Goals, Actions, Partnerships and Other Implementation Steps	58
Mini-Plenary Discussions.....	61
Setting the Context for Discussions.....	63
Additional Notes from Work Group Discussions	64
Appendices	65
Summit Participants.....	65
Summit Planning Teams.....	68
Summit Facilitation Team	69

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In his January 2003 State of the Commonwealth address, Virginia Governor Mark R. Warner announced his plan to hold the first-ever Governor's Natural Resources Leadership Summit. The Summit was conceived and planned from the outset as a partnership effort to establish a common natural resource agenda and action plan. The Summit brought together leaders from throughout Virginia representing a broad range of interests and perspectives, for the purpose of identifying pressing issues as well as new ideas and approaches to the conservation and preservation of Virginia's natural resources.

During the two day Summit, April 10-11, Summit organizers and facilitators noted that the Summit goal was not to achieve consensus, but rather to hear and explore different perspectives and to develop ideas and options for the Governor, the Secretary of Natural Resources, and their staff to consider in the development of an action plan. It is significant that, considering the different perspectives represented, Summit participants nevertheless found significant common ground on numerous points. Equally significant is that similar points of agreement emerged from separate discussion groups, thereby further expanding the foundation of common ground among participants and providing strong guidance for a natural resources action plan. Below is a summary of major themes and areas of strong agreement and common ground that emerged from the Summit.

Stable Funding

Participants highlighted the importance of increasing overall funding and creating a stable source of funding for protecting and preserving the Commonwealth's rich natural resources. Numerous ideas were discussed, including resource-based user fees, permitting fees, and partnership efforts to raise monies targeted for specific programs. Overall, participants reflected the need to develop a clear strategy for ensuring that stable funding would be developed to enable clean-up, protection, and preservation of the Commonwealth's resources. Key items were funding for land conservation, water quality and for agency operations.

Marketing and Education

Participants identified a need to increase both legislative and general public understanding of how Virginia's rich natural resources are the critical infrastructure upon which the Commonwealth's economy and sustainability depends, and why therefore natural resources must receive greater attention and support. Specific ideas ranged from developing a clear marketing strategy, which is seen as distinct from environmental education in that marketing aims to create linkages between people's actions and the basic services provided by natural resources while education aims to increase the knowledge base about environmental and ecosystem issues.

Coordination, Communication and Partnering

Participants expressed a strong desire for the conversation among leaders from different sectors to continue, many of them noting that the Natural Resources Leadership Summit represented an important "first" in the Commonwealth for which they were grateful. Numerous ideas were developed for ways in which different interest groups can continue to come together to discuss critical issues, identify actions that can be supported by all, develop partnerships for common action, and overall work together more efficiently and effectively. Another aspect of this common theme is the need to find ways to improve inter-agency coordination and communication, and to centralize and streamline data for all natural resources data (e.g. water quality, fish, habitat, land cover, land uses, easements, buffers, wetlands, parks) in a way that would ensure access to important data even in fiscally difficult times.

Regulatory Flexibility Incentives

Participants reflected that meaningful improvements in water quality and other regulated environmental issues will be accomplished only through a combination of regulation and incentives. Participants generally expressed that Virginia's regulatory programs need to be complimented with incentives, and that regulatory programs themselves can be updated and improved by incorporating incentives for users to go beyond minimum compliance. Participants agreed that there is a need to examine ways in which regulatory programs create disincentives for exceeding minimum requirements, implementing pollution prevention and reducing environmental impacts, and to also identify disincentives that could be removed relatively easily.

Take Action

Participants felt strongly that concrete actions should emerge from the Summit to maintain the momentum of the Summit. Specifically, participants suggested that where possible the administration should identify and quickly take actions that are low or no-cost to the state with significant benefits, and which represent easy "wins" for everyone. One example suggested as an "easy win" would be for the administration to designate all Tier-2 waters (clean waterways) as Virginia Blueways to promote the concept of a river trail system and "Adopt-A-River" by local groups to keep our rivers clean. Another example suggested would be require permit applications to identify wetlands, thereby providing important data for mapping wetlands in the Commonwealth. While perhaps not as easy or quick, examples of other proposed actions were to identify and pursue all illegal "straight pipe" discharges of raw sewage, pursue unresolved complaints under the Agricultural Stewardship Act, and develop recognition programs for environmental achievements above and beyond those required.

Relationship between the State and Local Government

Participants made numerous suggestions all pointing to the need for improving ways in which the state works with localities so that localities can better fulfill their responsibilities. For example, the state is currently providing watershed planning workshops as part of its effort to enable watershed planning throughout the state. In addition to these workshops, for localities to better manage the increasing pressures of growth, specific technical training is needed for planning staff, Commissions, and for elected Boards and Councils, on how to use low impact development techniques, retool to meet Phase II Stormwater Regulations, and regulatory tools for growth management, such as fast track permitting. These kinds of training needs should be identified and a strategy established for meeting these needs.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SUMMIT DISCUSSIONS

WATER RESOURCES

The following is a brief summary of the major themes and suggestions that emerged from the discussions of three separate work groups on water resources. No effort was made to achieve consensus, although some ideas that generated significant support are indicated by the numbers in parentheses.

Funding

A stable source of funding for natural resources is desperately needed.

- Fees must be fair and equitable, and collected in a way that creates a sustainable source of funding.
- A coalition of all players should be created, with everyone at the table, and with everyone creating some source of increased revenue for natural resources.
- Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the funding mechanisms for protecting the Waters of the Commonwealth.
- Establish discharge fees and other potential use fees to increase money for water quality; foster public support for increased fees on discharge permits and make the funds available for monitoring, enforcement, and water restorations.

Measures to Protect and Improve Water Quality

Incentives or regulations alone have not been sufficient to clean our waters. Regulatory measures are needed to compliment the incentives, and incentives could be built into the regulatory approach.

REGULATORY AND PROGRAM IDEAS AND ISSUES

- Establish a partnership task force to identify potential regulatory barriers to environmental protection goals.
- Design regulations that promote accountability and provide for and encourage innovative/technology-based solutions. Promote flexible performance based outcomes for all regulation communities.
- The importance of stormwater management needs to be elevated. Should institute statewide mandatory (low impact development) stormwater management. Encourage/require everyone to employ water conservation/recycling.
- Adopt and implement a "smart growth" program that preserves resource lands, protects water quality, and encourages urban redevelopment. This is a way of achieving water quality.
- To reduce nitrogen and nutrients in the streams, rivers and Bay, require sewage treatment plants to upgrade and also address nonpoint sources through Best Management Practices. Fund this action through the Water Quality Improvement Fund (water fee).

USING INCENTIVES TO GO BEYOND COMPLIANCE

- Improve water quality through a set of regulations and Incentives to reward and encourage point and nonpoint sources to make voluntary reductions in water emissions beyond the regulatory requirements.
- Need greater incentives for landowners to adopt BMPs. Financially, reward good stewards of the land.
- Create a "top of the pile" permit review for new development that conforms beyond compliance.
- Eliminate the property tax for riparian buffers. (For example, make a special assessment mandatory.)

Enforcement

Increase the capacity for effective enforcement of current laws and regulations

- Need more effective enforcement of erosion and sedimentation programs.

Technical Tools

We do not have the data needed for key decisions and actions for addressing complex water pollution issues.

- We need to collect data and provide access to better technical tools.

Marketing and Comprehensive Public Education

Need to develop a long-term comprehensive education and awareness campaign to increase the knowledge and understanding of all Virginians.

- Develop a private sector consortium to seek money for environmental education.
- Capture the imagination of the public, which currently is disconnected from how natural resources provide the infrastructure for the Commonwealth's economy and long-term sustainability.
- Devise ways to help people connect their own actions to cumulative impacts on water resources.
- Formal and non-formal education should be a higher priority to the government and communities in their watershed.
- Designate all Tier 2 rivers as Blueways. This is a quick and easy, nonregulatory, free action that could help local governments and communities focus on their waterways. These could then be used as blueprints for watershed groups, greenways, river trails, etc.
- Recognize environmental "champions:" or "Environmental Excellence," e.g., industry and others that have taken important steps in pollution prevention and clean-up beyond that required.

Collaboration and Coordination

Increase local, regional, and state capacity and coordination for planning mechanisms governing water resources throughout the Commonwealth

- Develop a way for local communities to come together to address water quality issues. Need to foster City/County cooperation and also regional coordination. City/County separation hinders water resource management.
- Comprehensive locally based use-attainability analyses, to enable flexibility in applying water quality standards according to whether designated uses are being met at the local level.
- Tie land use to water quality at the local level; look at true cost to water resources.
- Focus limited state funding on regional or watershed groups
- For stormwater management, encourage city, state and federal governments to work together to encourage low impact levels of development.

LAND CONSERVATION

The following is a brief summary of the major themes and suggestions that emerged from the discussions of two separate work groups on land conservation. No effort was made to achieve consensus, although some ideas that generated significant support are indicated by the numbers in parentheses.

Funding:

- The State should increase funding and the priority for land conservation.
- Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the funding mechanisms for protecting important conservation and outdoor recreation lands and historic sites of the Commonwealth.
- Without substantial funding, the group acknowledged that meeting the state's two current land conservation goals would be virtually impossible.

Policy, Regulations, Incentives

- Develop new ethics/vision based on Article 11.
- Develop a consistent overarching land conservation goal for Virginia that incorporates the existing C2K and 2007 goals.

Development/Growth

- Accommodate growth in an environmentally compatible way.

- Protect the "right" resources (i.e., put energy where it will matter, working on resources that are commonly defined as those that matter most)
- The State should strengthen existing tools and incentives for land conservation.
- The State should integrate economic growth and land conservation.
- The State should establish the legal framework and/or authority for localities to support resource conservation.
- Encourage and reward development that minimizes adverse impact on the environment and give certainty to developers.

Integrated Planning

- Develop a planning process and program to pull in state, regions, and localities.

Economic Development

- The State should support the viability of agriculture and forestry and the rural economy.

Human & Technological Resources

- Add Land Management Capacity (mapping, legal, people, land management capacity).

Marketing and Comprehensive Public Education

- Develop a marketing strategy to increase public awareness of the value of land conservation.

Partnerships

- Enhance partnerships with federal, private, local and other state entities that would help Virginia meet its land conservation goals.
- Develop ways to recognize those private businesses and corporations that permanently preserve land and that effectively manage their land from a conservation perspective.

OUTDOOR RECREATION RESOURCES

The following is a brief summary of the major themes and suggestions that emerged from the discussions of two separate work groups on outdoor recreation resources. No effort was made to achieve consensus, although some ideas that generated significant support are indicated by the numbers in parentheses.

Funding

- Create a dedicated funding source for natural resource protection and enhancement, e.g., land conservation, publicly owned and/or operated outdoor facilities such as state parks and wildlife areas (top priority of both groups).
- Establish a plan to move Virginia from 50th to over 40th nationally in spending on natural resources over the 3 to 5 year time frame.
- Have a non-general fund bond referendum for the DGIF for land acquisition and capital improvements.
- Develop a plan without a tax increase.
- Have the public pay for the fixed cost of existing wildlife (and wild lands)(marketing campaign on the existence of these).

Marketing/Public Affairs

- Need to coordinate public and private tourism plans for sustainable development and marketing.
- Educate public officials, opinion leaders and decision-makers on existence and economic benefits of natural resources (the resource attracts visitors but nearby businesses receive the economic benefits-not the resource itself).

- Eliminate political pressures on natural resource and funding.
- About existence and economic benefits.
- Work with the private sector to combine public/private marketing efforts and ad campaigns for the Commonwealth.

Preservation

- More protection for existing resources (natural and built).
- Preserve open land.
- Take actions to preserve the critical view sheds of scenic resources/assets and develop guides to help local governments to achieve view-shed protection.

Resource Development

- Form a study commission to charged with the task of mapping statewide areas for special protection.
- Increase outdoor recreation and historic recreation opportunities.

Partnerships

- Facilitate public-private partnerships statewide among businesses (ex. Subaru-Mtn. Bike Trail).
- Bridge commonality to bring together the hunters and fishing groups with conservation folks to identify common ground for legislation.
- Develop partnership to develop Federal grants, i.e. T21 for view shed easements.

Communication

- Increase insider education for agencies and groups about what each other do.

Education

- Develop a program to educate the next generation on natural resource issues.
- Develop a conservation stamp for natural resources users that do not require a license.
- Conservation education for school age children: develop a curriculum on natural resources K – 12 with a focus on urban areas.
- Schools and local recreation could partner and promote with conservation groups to educate children.

FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

The following is a brief summary of the major themes and suggestions that emerged from the discussions of one work group on fisheries and wildlife resources. No effort was made to achieve consensus, although some ideas that generated significant support are indicated by the numbers in parentheses.

Education:

- Promote education and awareness about the challenges we are currently facing and about the importance of wildlife and their habitat, and other natural resource issues, and promote a sense of ownership among stakeholders.
- A statewide public youth education program that is based on the Standards of Learning and has hands-on experience (e.g., Project Learning Tree, Wild, Wet, etc.). Identify and target audiences in need of behavior modification (e.g., alcohol consumers that litter, etc.). Direct Secretary of Education to make environmental education a priority. Development of partnerships with private education providers.

Funding

- Identify and dedicate a secure funding source including dedicated alternative funding sources to support fish and wildlife.

- Private funding sources needs to be explored as well as public sources.
- Check-off on tax returns for natural resources fund. Review and raise license fees. User fees - review fees to see where we might increase or lower fee (e.g., a severance tax on living resources).
- Analyze and explore an amendment to Virginia Constitution to require a percentage of the State's general revenue to be dedicated to natural resource conservation.

Integrated Planning

- Implement a comprehensive and integrative system for managing fisheries and wildlife systems.
- Develop comprehensive clearinghouse for information that integrates multiple sources of information into a website that provides a source of information. Link agency and partner websites to highlight to comprehensive nature of natural resources in Virginia, and printed material.
- Use conservation easements to achieve the objectives of wildlife preservation and require Best Management Practices for any land under conservation easements and development (must include wildlife). Continue momentum for preservation of open space.
- Direct electric utilities to permit planting of significant size pilot plots for game and non-game habitat under transmission lines, with monitoring to determine results on bird populations and economic efforts on the utility, including Best Management Practices.
- Combine agencies within the Secretariat and Department of Forestry into one DNR agency.

Regulation, Enforcement, and Innovation

- Reduce and/or reverse the negative effects of land use change, including habitat loss and modification, on wildlife.
- Provide incentives for agricultural, forest, and other enterprises to create and maintain for wildlife habitat.
- Require Department of Forestry to do the forest management on state lands (State Parks and reserves) consistent with prevailing goals.

Economic Development

- Promote long-term viability of natural resource based and natural resource dependent economy in a sustainable manner.
- Study and target 3-5 industry segments for consideration of Virginia's growing economic activities (i.e., aquaculture).
- Aquaculture perspective: encourage the development of an aquaculture; seek ways to encourage development of aquaculture infrastructure.
- We need to get people interested, and to learn methods to protect specific species such as Bobwhite quail.
- Health of wildlife populations, and health and integrity of ecological systems is important.
- Desire to develop more sensitive monitoring systems for health and bio-security of environmental systems for wildlife and ecosystems.
- Develop more effective methods to respond to bio-security threats and diseases.
- Reduce habitat loss, land-use change, and impacts.

SUMMIT PROCESS

In his January 2003 State of the Commonwealth address, Virginia Governor Mark R. Warner announced his plan to hold the first-ever Governor's Natural Resources Leadership Summit. The Summit was conceived and planned from the outset as a partnership effort to establish a common natural resource agenda and action plan. Three sets of groups were involved in planning the Summit: 1) an Advisory Council comprised of people representing different interests to help guide the conceptualization and development of the Summit agenda; 2) a Steering Committee comprised of key agency representatives to provide input on the Summit agenda and assist with substantive and logistical preparations for the Summit; and 3) a core planning team led by staff of the Secretary of Natural Resources. The University of Virginia's Institute for Environmental Negotiation was contracted to assist with the development of the Summit agenda and facilitation process, and worked with all three planning groups.

Held on April 10 and 11, 2003 at the Hospitality House in Williamsburg, the two-day Summit was designed to bring together for leaders from Virginia's business, industry, development, local, state and federal government, outdoors recreation, historic, environmental, tourism, hunting and fishing, land conservation, and academic communities to frame Virginia's natural resource priorities. The intent was that the Summit would generate new and creative ideas, foster meaningful interaction, communication and cooperation among Virginia's key natural resource constituents, and ensure collective motivation for action around the implementation of a natural resource action agenda. During these two days, 136 invited leaders from around the Commonwealth gathered to identify goals for the next three years and beyond, funding needs, and partnerships and other actions necessary to enact these goals.

Governor Warner opened his Summit by outlining accomplishments in protecting and preserving the Commonwealth's natural and historic resources and identifying the significant challenges remaining. He called on participants to "roll up their sleeves" to work together to develop new and creative ways of addressing existing conditions and commitments as well as to identify where the greatest impacts could be made.

In preparation for the Summit the invitees were provided background papers on each of the four theme areas of water resources, land conservation, outdoor recreation opportunities, and fisheries and wildlife, as well as a set of questions. Additional background papers were provided on the major cross-cutting themes of pollution prevention, environmental education, and natural resource funding. These themes were identified through informed consultation with the Summit Advisory Council, Steering Committee, and Secretary of Natural Resources W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr. At the Summit, agency directors gave brief presentations to participants on the current conditions and challenges in each of the four theme areas. Following the presentations, each participant joined a small discussion group on one of these themes. Each group met for the remainder of the first day, and its discussion was facilitated and recorded by a three-member team. During this discussion, participants first identified important trends impacting the resource, and then moved into a future-oriented discussion around suggested goals, actions, partnerships, funding, and other implementation steps. All of the suggestions from this first round of discussions were compiled and provided back to participants for their work on the second day.

Later that evening, dinner keynote speaker Patrick Noonan, founder of The Conservation Fund, shared his experience on the power of partnerships in bringing about change. He highlighted the historic nature of the Summit and encouraged invited leaders to work together in new ways to preserve Virginia's natural and historic resources for future generations.

During the morning of the second day, two rounds of concurrent mini-plenary discussions were held for each of the four theme areas. Participants were able to attend two different discussion groups in which they could hear about the ideas and suggestions developed during the first day of the Summit and provide additional suggestions for these themes. Thus, by the end of the Summit, each participant had the opportunity to provide input for three of the four natural resource themes.

A compilation of participant suggestions served as the basis for the development of a draft Partnership Action Plan. This draft Plan was given to both the Advisory Council and Steering Committee for their comments and suggestions, prior to its finalization and presentation at the Environment Virginia Conference in Lexington on April 30, 2003. Future actions to advance the Partnership Agenda may include such things as budget initiatives, legislative or regulatory changes, private voluntary steps, education and recognition programs, additional studies, on-going work groups, and partnership activities.

SUMMIT IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS, AND CONCERNS

Summit discussions about the four different resource themes were often different in nature. Some work groups engaged in rich focussed discussions around a few central concerns; others engaged in rich divergent discussions in which participants offered numerous different ideas about a wide range of concerns. Regardless of the nature of their conversations, participants were assured that all ideas and suggestions would be captured and provided in the final Summit Report.

This section provides the complete record of participant discussions, including both the first day work group discussions and the second day mini-plenary discussions. I

WATER RESOURCES

I. Goals, Actions, Partnerships, And Other Implementation Steps for The Next Three Years And Beyond

On the first day of the Forum, April 10, three separate work groups each discussed what could be done to improve protection of water resources in the Commonwealth. Participants were asked the following questions:

- What specific goals and commitments would you suggest are do-able in the next three years and beyond?
- What specific actions would help realize these goals in the next three years and beyond?
- What specific partnerships and other steps are needed to implement these actions in the next three years and beyond?

For each of these series of discussions, participants were asked to indicate their support for the suggested goals, actions, and partnerships. The number of people within the work group that supported a particular item is indicated in parenthesis, e.g. (16). The numbers in parentheses should be seen as an indicator of the most supported or most immediately pressing ideas. It is very important to note, however, that a low number of votes for an idea does *NOT* mean that the idea was not supported. In a number of work groups at the Summit there was often broad support for many more ideas than could be demonstrated. Hence, ideas with a low number of votes should be given due consideration during the implementation phase.

WORK GROUP #1

SMART GROWTH

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT A “SMART GROWTH” PROGRAM THAT PRESERVES RESOURCE LANDS, PROTECTS WATER QUALITY, AND ENCOURAGES URBAN REDEVELOPMENT. THIS IS A WAY OF ACHIEVING WATER QUALITY. (8)

- Revise local zoning and stormwater ordinances to allow smart growth. (4)
- Have a land use planning agency (3)

- Ask the Governor to charge the Secretary of NR, Transportation and Economic Development to come up with a plan (1)
- Combine city and county governments for regional planning (1)
- We need to deal with the urban quality of life issues: brownfields etc.
- Have voter education, General Assembly (top levels) education about the economic advantages of smart growth.

NUTRIENT REDUCTION LOADINGS

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: ACHIEVE NUTRIENT REDUCTION LOADINGS SET BY THE CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM. (WHAT WE NEED TO DO ABOUT THE DISSOLVED OXYGEN LEVELS, ETC.) (7)

- New sewage treatment plants have pollution reduction (2)
- Upgrade existing plants (2)
- Stick with the Riparian Buffers program (Restoration will be achieved by creating (5) the riparian buffers
- Seeking Alternatives for Nitrogen and Phosphorous
- Better management of bio-solids applications

ACCESS TO TOOLS (WATERSHED PLANNING).

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: CREATE ACCESS TO BETTER TECHNICAL TOOLS FOR CLEANING COMPLEX WATER POLLUTION ISSUES. (6)

- Develop Models (3)
- Have EPA sit down and brainstorm about solutions in a one-day workshop with industry. (2)
- Use assessment tools such as Multi Criteria Integrated Resource Assessment (MIRA) (2)
- Share Access
- Take advantage of Universities abilities to develop models
- Restructuring agency authority to allow for regulatory flexibility. This allows for a holistic solution.
- Regulatory Authority over non-regulated sources.

PLANNING BEYOND SUCCESS.

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: CREATE INCENTIVES TO HAVE NEW GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT GO BEYOND THE MINIMUM COMPLIANCE. (4)

- We could make decisions that fall in line with the way land is zoned, (zone water the way land is zoned.) (There was great reluctance to use the word “zone” but it stands for lack of a better one being generated in this discussion.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: ELEVATE THE ISSUE OF STORM-WATER MANAGEMENT. (4)

- Encourage city, state and federal governments to work together to encourage low impact levels of development (5)
- Performance monitoring – how is it working? (3)
- Require (mandate with enforcement) a zero percent storm water discharge after development (no net increase) Tie to zoning. (1)

SUSTAIN AND ALLOW FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: FIND WAYS OF ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS THAT SUPPORT EXISTING ECONOMIC LEVELS (4)

- No ideas for actions were listed, but this goal received (3) votes during the prioritization of actions.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: DEVISE WAYS TO HELP PEOPLE CONNECT WHAT THEY DO IN THEIR OWN BACK YARD WITH THE CUMULATIVE IMPACTS. (3)

- Improve environmental education (5)

POLLUTION PREVENTION

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: POLLUTION PREVENTION SHOULD BE ADDED INTO THE REGULATORY PROCESS. POLLUTION AND PREVENTION COULD BE A REQUIREMENT BEFORE YOU GET A PERMIT. (3)

- There could be incentives to do this. (11)
- Virginia could have a precursor, a requirement for anyone seeking a permit to go through the process of looking at their facility and determining pollution prevention opportunities.(2)
- We could enhance the use of water quality credits. (1)
- There could be an effort to remove disincentives. (This was in response to an expressed concern that there are disincentives to the permitting process.)

SEDIMENT REMEDIATION

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: IMPROVE COLLECTION AND TREATMENT OF SEDIMENTARY WASTE. (3)

- State participates in Corps of Engineer program of Sediment Cleanup (1)

BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: DEVELOP A WAY TO HAVE CONVERSATIONS WITHIN COMMUNITIES THAT SHIFT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SOLUTIONS PROCESS TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE CAUSING THE POLLUTION. THE STATE'S ROLE WOULD BE TO DEFINE THIS CONVERSATION PROCESS IN A WAY THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT IS NOW. (2)

Concern: When boiled down this is about how to build riparian areas because this is what is necessary to improve water quality. Most riparian areas in the Commonwealth are degraded and can be a source themselves of pollution.

- Communities help determine how to fix the problem. (2)
- State supported, inclusive, message-specific roundtables

IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SOLID WASTE AND WASTE WATER

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: THE COMMONWEALTH COULD COMMIT TO AN ONGOING PROCESS OF MITIGATION FOR HISTORIC CONTAMINATION AND SEDIMENTATION PROBLEMS. ("GET RID OF THE GOO.") (2)

- Help cities with aging infrastructure. (3)
- Enhance regional planning; this can be a way saving dollars.(2)
- We could reduce straight piping (raw sewage discharge). This would involve identifying the scope of the problem and creating awareness of the problem.
- Asset management

ZERO DISCHARGE

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: TO IMPLEMENT THE GOAL OF "ZERO DISCHARGE." THIS WAS THE GOAL OF THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT (THE DEADLINE WAS 1985) AND SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN LOST. (NONE)

- Provide Incentives (6)
- Beef up the P2 (PP or P Squared for pollution prevention) Staff and work with private sector (non-profits etc.) (1)
- Require permittee to reduce point source discharge.
- Define "zero discharge" using models of what other states are doing to reach zero discharge.

INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR GOING BEYOND MINIMUM COMPLIANCE

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: WE COULD DEVISE WAYS TO MANAGE OUR RESTORED RESOURCES. AS WE DEVISE RESTORATION PLANS WE COULD LOOK BEYOND THE RESTORATION TO HOW WE MAINTAIN THEM AND HOW WE USE THEM ONCE THEY ARE RESTORED. (NONE)

- Eliminate property tax for riparian buffers. For example: special assessment: Make mandatory.(4)
- Have a “Top of the pile” permit review for new development that conforms beyond compliance. (2)
- Revise state and local permitting process for buffers. Flexibility in mitigation.(2)
- Have the state take an increased role in creating the incentives. (not a punitive roll) (1)

Concern: Incentives have been in place for 15 years and we haven't solved the problem. It is where we have had the regulatory measures in place that we have made strides. It takes a combination of both.

ACTIONS FOR OVERALL GOALS OF FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION

- It is critical that the fees that we implement are fair and equitable
- They must be collected in a way that creates a sustainable source of funding
- There needs to be a fee structure that provides an incentive for pollution reduction
- There needs to be a sustainable percentage of general funds
- Build a coalition that can lobby effectively to increase the general fund allocation.
- This needs to include all the players, who may have diverse opinions but who have common issues.
- The coalition would focus on specific goals that are attractive to all participants in this coalition, issues with strong support, issues with societal value.
- Need a commitment to increase revenue
- There needs to be a dedicated natural resource maintenance sales tax of ¼ cent supported by a broad coalition. Specifics on how the money will be spent must be provided in this process.
- Need to address our government's credibility, that the money will be used as the public understands it will be used if they vote for the increase.
- We could have incentives for private sector solutions through regulatory efforts to reduce the need for public funding
- We need to reexamine what effect if any being a Dillon Rule has on our ability to raise dollars for natural resources.
- Make grants available to local communities to do things that they want, like creating buffers. This helps create constituencies. (e.g. Growing Greener project in PA)
- We need a coalition of all the players, where you have industry, agriculture, environmentalists, everyone that will be tied to creating some source of increased revenue for natural resources. You will get industry to the table if you can in return do things like streamline the permitting process.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Water Resources Group #1 commits to support an increase in funding for natural resources.

WORK GROUP #2

GOAL: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND HEALTH FOR ALL WATER USERS IN VIRGINIA. (10)

Objective 1: Achieve Unequivocally swimmable streams. (3)

Action 1: Annually require the governor, Secretary of Natural Resources, DEQ director, speaker of House of Delegates, and chair of the House Appropriations Committee to swim in the randomly selected rivers around the Commonwealth.

Action 2: Implement a Virginia STAR system to recognize good actors.

Action 3: Target impaired streams and provide CREP funds to restore them.

Action 4: Simplify the process for designating exceptional waters. Designate at least 50 stream segments immediately.

Objective 2: Protect habitat for aquatic life. (1)

Objective 3: Eat Lynnhaven oysters by 2007. (3)

Action 1: Coordinate entities to treat and monitor pollution at the local level. This direct clear goal is an organizing concept for community action on behalf of all stakeholders. Point sources of pollution have been removed. Now the task is to stimulate action by many stakeholders to reduce pollution and increase the health of the Lynnhaven Bay. Actors include the Corps of Engineers other federal agencies, DEQ, the city of Virginia Beach, VIMS, VMRC, other state agencies and especially the neighbors who live on the Bay. Actions include treating storm-water, planting buffers, reducing nutrients, education about what goes in drains, youth projects in education, regulation of pets in regard to public health, best management practices, erosion and sediment enforcement and regular monitoring of the health of the bay. Supporting actions include organizing community education, fundraising, coalition building, capacity building, coordination of agencies, and political and administrative lobbying.

Objective 4: Reduce nitrogen/ nutrients in streams, rivers, and Bay. (6)

Action 1: Reduce nitrogen in streams by enforcement of regulation and laws. Require DEQ & Dept. of Health to do cost benefit analysis before implementing.

Mechanism to achieve action: Require sewage treatment plants to upgrade and also address non-point sources through Best Management Practices. Fund using the Water Quality Improvement Fund (water fee). (4)

Partners: Summit participants, industry, Governor, Secretary of Natural Resources, conservation departments and local governments.

Action 2: Conduct cost-benefit analysis and use to prioritize before implementing any reduction strategy. Prioritize projects based on "Bang for the Buck." (4)

Partners: POTWs, agricultural industry, local government, environmental groups, EPA, DEQ, Chesapeake Bay Program

Objective 5. Establish mandatory Best Management Practices for forest and agricultural industries to recognize and better clean up non-point source pollution. (3)

Action 1: The state legislature should make the state's forestry Best Management Practices mandatory and provide the Department of Forestry with the necessary funding to enforce them.

Action 2: Create a statewide forestry program. Amend the code to make forestry best management practices on private land mandatory while offering free logger training and technical assistance to landowners and loggers.

Mechanism and partners: General Assembly, DOF, DEQ, VDACS and VCE coordinate implementation and fund using fees imposed on forestry and agricultural industries. (3)

Objective 6: Improve water quality through a set of regulations and incentives to reward and encourage point and non-point sources to make voluntary reductions in water emissions beyond regulatory requirements. (8)

Action 1: Require Public Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) to use Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) and require best management practices (BMPs). Provide funding for implementation.

Action 2: Provide incentives and flexibility to reward those who reduce phosphorous and nitrogen pollution. (River Star)

Action 3: Develop a set of regulatory incentives and regulatory flexibility to reward and encourage point and non-point sources to make voluntary reductions in water emissions beyond regulatory requirements.

Mechanism and partners: VMA, the chamber, DEQ and environmental groups will establish a focused team to develop a plan to present to EPA identifying regulatory relief for permittees who adopt Environmental Management Systems (EMS), P2 strategies, or E-2/E-3 programs. This can be done by industry volunteers and take 6 months max. (3)

GOAL: INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FUNDING MECHANISMS FOR PROTECTING THE WATERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH. (10)

Objective 1: Identify and prioritize specific needs for water quality program funding. (2)

Action 1: Identify and prioritize the specific needs and programs requiring funding for five-year plan that will assist the Commonwealth in meeting the water vision.

Action 2: Urge the administration to make a clear and short term goal to double its funding of natural resources by identifying or creating one or more sources dedicated funding. (1)

Mechanism: Impose statewide water use fees on sewer bills.

Partners: General Assembly, Conservation groups, businesses, summit participants, the governor, and the Secretary of Natural Resources.

Action 3: Put political, corporate environmental and citizen pressure on the Secretary of Natural Resources and the governor to agree to clear and short term goal to double funding. All environmental agencies and DPB could contribute to the plan.

Mechanism to achieve action: The Secretary of Natural Resources and his staff can partner with VMA/Virginia Conservation Network for input. The specific funding needs to be approved by the House and Senate environmental sub-committees. These sub-committees should forward to the Finance Committee for action. General Fund and Bond Fund should be the source of cash. (3)

Action 4: Fund the Water Quality Improvement Fund a minimum of 40 million dollars each biennium. (5)

Objective 2: Educate the general assembly on importance of the utilization of general funds. (0)

Action 1: Natural Resource Summit participants should coordinate support for this. (Elbow grease and shoe leather)

Objective 3: Discharge fees and other potential user fees. Increase money for water quality by fostering an environment of public support for increased fees on discharge permits, and make funds available for monitoring, enforcement, and wetlands restoration. (18)

Action 1: Create storm water utilities in many VA cities and urbanized counties funded by a storm water discharge fee paid by all landowners based on amount of paved surface to be spent on innovative low impact development.

Action 2: Impose statewide user fees to fund point source and NPS pollution cleanup. (6)

Mechanisms to achieve action:

- Put a tax on each water bill and a well tax to generate funds. (Similar to e911 phone bill taxes)
- DEQ changes regulations and state water control board approves them. Funding provided by user fees.(2)

Objective 4: Increase permit fees to fund monitoring and enforcement of wetland protection.

Action 1: Increase permit fees (VPDES, UWPP, etc.) for monitoring, enforce.

Partners: Industry, POTW, conservation groups, General Assembly, Secretary of Natural Resources, and the Governor.

Action 2: Establish an "In lieu fee " to create a fund to develop and monitor wetlands.

Objective 5: Increase money for filter feeder restoration in Chesapeake Bay. (3)

Action 1: Generate new funds by one-half cent restaurant tax in Chesapeake Bay watershed and require reports to ensure funds go for restoration.

Objective 6: Ensure all households to have a safe and clean water supply. (4)

Action 1: Funding by government to assist all homes lacking complete indoor plumbing. Make a state priority and fund it.

Mechanism to achieve action: Allow developers that replace sufficient existing toilet fixtures with low flow models to eliminate an increase in water demand from development of a new project to be exempt from the capital cost portion of any applicable "tip" fee for water supply connections.

Partners: Governor, Dept. Secretary, State water commission, General Assembly, local government, community residents who do not have water and waste treatment facilities. Requires a minimum of 5 million dollars over the next three years.

Objective 7: Have a statewide bond issue to fund environmental protection.

GOAL: DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION/AWARENESS PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE KNOWLEDGE BASE OF ALL VIRGINIANS. (4)

Objective 1: Formal and non-formal education should be a higher priority to the government and communities in their watershed. (9)

Action 1: Provide full funding to staff the office of Environmental Education.

Action 2: Use all avenues to create educational materials formal and non-formal on environmental education priorities for state through state legislation and mandates.

Action 3: Develop a private sector consortium to seek money for environmental education.

Mechanism to achieve objective (4): Virginia Manufactures Association, Chamber of Commerce, etc. shall identify a team of champions to set a specific financial goal for environmental education fund raising and will match any state monies.

Mechanisms to achieve action (1)

- Funding supplemental environmental projects.
- Income tax check-off
- Make funding an element an element of the statewide incentive program.
- Provide for a general fund contribution.
- Tax one percent of all real estate transactions.

Partners:

- See Jay Gilliam's environmental white paper

Objective 2: Develop better public understanding and awareness of the need for cleaner rivers and the need to protect existing waters. (4)

Action 1: Develop a series of educational packages/modules to be used to educate the public on water quality issues and the specific programs needing funding to achieve specific water quality results/improvements.

Mechanism to achieve action: Work with Virginia Naturally to develop the source of funds that can be in the form of private or federal grants or the general fund.

Partners: Public TV and Radio

Action 2: Implement a program statewide to make it mandatory for probationers and parolees to be required to pick up garbage along the roads and in the streambeds of the Commonwealth. Each one should be assigned a section to keep clean. If they fail to do this, then their probation or parole should be revoked.

Mechanism: to achieve action: Small cost to the state for personal protective gear for individuals doing the work and they also need trash bags, etc. Explain the benefits of the program to judges at their annual conferences.

Action 3: Expand the concept of scenic rivers to include many more rivers by providing encouragement and incentives for counties and cities to manage, protect and publicize their rivers as linear parks – Virginia Blueway System. This would be parallel to the greenway trail program.

Mechanism: to achieve action: Designate all Tier 2 rivers as Blueways. This is a quick and easy, nonregulatory, free action that could help local governments and communities focus on their waterways. These could then be used as blueprints for watershed groups, greenways, river trails, etc. (8)

Partners: General Assembly, DCR, local governments, etc.

Action 4: Send a letter to all relevant riparian landowners explaining the requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Act.

Action 5: Develop a world class public recognition campaign to provide incentives for investment by interested individuals, businesses, local governments, philanthropists, foundations, churches, etc. in basin wide strategy for citizen stewardship.

Mechanism and Partners: Partner with state and federal agencies, colleges, grass roots groups, local governments, churches, businesses, and professional public relation firms. (4)

Objective 3: Increase constituencies for water quality protection to establish increased political will to affect change. (0)

GOAL: IMPROVE THE AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION AND DATA TO ALLOW INFORMED DECISION-MAKING. (3)

Objective 1: Increase data set on ground/surface water supplies (especially in mine and coal field areas). (2)

Action 1: Identifying parts of Virginia where there is a particular lack of baseline data on groundwater or surface water (or both) quantity and quality. Create model pilot projects to collect quality assured data using agencies, local governments, colleges, consultants, and volunteers. Publish results on a well-designed website using a GIS database.

Mechanisms to achieve action: Department of Mines Minerals and Energy can use existing staff to monitor surface and ground.

- Use the USACE to provide the funding and staff to collect this data.

Objective 2: Coordinated inventory of state water resources (maps, planning, tools, etc). (2)

Action 1: Mandate relevant agencies collect data in uniform format. Designate central place where all data is stored. Develop and implement statewide definition of data elements. Develop capability for analysis of data elements for specific surface basins and groundwater. Fund and staff aggressively.

Mechanisms to achieve action:

- The General Assembly should authorize funding to pay for the coordinated inventory of state water resources.

- Scientifically rank an inventory of all resources (e.g. 1-10)

Objective 3: Analyze effects of global warming on water resources. (0)

GOAL: INCREASE THE LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND STATE CAPACITY AND COORDINATION FOR PLANNING MECHANISMS GOVERNING WATER RESOURCES THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH. (2)

Objective 1: Maintain flexibility, integrity, and power of local governments to participants in making decisions. (0) Local governments need the flexibility to apply local conditions to the rules and regulations in order to develop a successful active the stakeholders can be directly involved in the trade off and produce the optimum results for a given project. The state's role should be limited to development of policy guidelines, dissemination, training, and oversight of its process, but not substituting their decisions over the local decisions.

Action 1: Limit state role to policy guidelines and oversight.

Objective 2: Increase capacity of local governments to work together on water planning (supply and quality). (4)

Action 1: Pass legislation like Florida authorizing the voluntary creation of water management districts. This includes all the local governing jurisdictions within a particular sub-watershed to do joint planning and management of all aspects of water resource management.

Action 2: Mandate regional planning efforts to occur. Provide technical and training. Review state limitations on local government authority to control growth, abate pollution, and include more teeth in planning issues. Consider need for regional governments. Consolidation of existing local governments to improve effectiveness and efficiency.

Action 3: Provide technical assistance and training to local governments in water planning.

Action 4: Authorize watershed management districts through legislation.

Mechanism to achieve action: General Assembly and local governments should be partners in sub-watersheds and fund through water, sewer, and storm-water fees.

Objective 3: Renew support for basin roundtables and increase stakeholder participation. (3)

Action 1: Create free or inexpensive incentives (public recognition, benchmarking, etc) for diverse participation and investment in basin-wide strategies to educate and promote urban and agricultural Best Management Practices. Develop statewide criteria to guide such strategy development. Make environmental stewardship investment as good a deal as NASCAR sponsorship. This is in addition to making state spending on roundtables a higher priority.

Objective 4: Eliminate the disconnect between management and Those charged with implementation. (2)

Action 1: Require staff to implement management's strategies to facilitate new pollutant reduction. Require periodic report back to management to ensure consistency and follow through.

Objective 5: Restore function of Virginia Council on the Environment. (0)

GOAL: INCREASE THE CAPACITY AND EFFECTIVENESS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF CURRENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS. (1)

Objective 1: Increase enforcement of laws through better cooperation of regulatory agencies. (4)

Action 1: Have regulatory agencies review how they enforce compliance regulations and systems. Coordinate TA to bring system into compliance.

Action 2: Have the state police be more active in the enforcement of the state's pollution laws. Example: Have them investigate spills of pollutants and violations of the litter laws in cooperation with other state agencies.

Action 3: Enforce water-quality laws already on the books by authorizing the state police and game wardens to actively assist DEQ and DOF in the apprehension of violators of water quality laws. Develop a statewide attitude on the part of judges that takes environmental law violations seriously and results in serious penalties for violators.

Mechanism: to achieve action:

- DEQ changes regulation in partnership with DCR. Funds derived from user fee levied at by locality.(2)
- Utilize current officers to enforce environmental laws. Small cost to acquire necessary equipment (boots, gloves and boats).
- Delegate VPDES requirements for construction sites to local government.
- Governor's office and Attorney General encourage strong enforcement by judiciary and the Commonwealth's Attorney.
- Agencies review compliance and enforcement effectiveness and efficiency

Objective 2: Improve compliance of existing wetland regulations. (1)

Action 1: Modify regulations for site plans to include copies of wetland delineations and permits.

Mechanism to achieve action: Permit applicants include this information on their applications. (2)

Objective 3: Expand required compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act into areas and users not presently covered. (3)

Objective 4: Increase consistency of implementation of existing laws. (0)

Action 1: Expand the Riverkeeper concept to watersheds across the state through a public/private partnership

Mechanism to achieve action: Convene executive directors, representatives of environmental organizations, corporations, government representatives to sell and develop this idea. Be sure to include those from existing Virginia Riverkeeper Programs. (4)

Partners: DEQ, DH staff, state advisory committees and boards, Natural Resource Secretary's Office. EPA (federal and regional levels), Governor and General Assembly members.

Objective 5: Eliminate regulatory barriers to environmental protection goals. (2)

Action 1: Stakeholder review of existing and proposed regulations to determine regulatory barriers and require proposed solutions for barrier removal. Submit findings to regulatory agencies for implementation (require schedule from regulatory agencies and report to stakeholder group).

Mechanism to achieve action: DEQ develop partnership with the Virginia Manufacturers Assoc., the Chamber, and others to identify potential problem areas. (5)

Stakeholders/Partners: POTWS, PDCs, local government, industry, landfill operators, and environmental groups, DEQ, SHD, DCR, EPA.

GROUP 2'S KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider disadvantaged when adding user fees to bills.
- Why not commit to natural resources funding?
- Target funding for specific initiatives.
- Highlight measures in this report that are free and efficient first.
- Provide water resources to those who do not have access to potable water.

- Blueways are low hanging fruit that just require designation.
- Combine fees with governor's funding as a comprehensive package.
- Environmental education can be done for free.
- Unified voice from the summit participants for funding.
- Statewide bond to fund water quality measures.

WORK GROUP #3

RESOURCE-BASED DEVELOPMENT

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: CONDUCT COMPREHENSIVE LOCALLY BASED USE ATTAINABILITY ANALYSES. TIE LAND USE TO WATER QUALITY AT LOCAL LEVEL. LOOK AT TRUE COST OF IMPACTS ON WATER RESOURCES. NEED REGIONAL COOPERATION, BETTER CITY-COUNTY COORDINATION. (16)

Final Vote: Group #3 selected this as it's top goal, if only one could be picked!

- Provide incentives for local governments to do watershed planning.
- Assign agencies to develop matrix to develop potential uses and link to necessary (example: you want to grow shellfish, implies restrictions on land use, density control to reduce fecal coliform). What needs to be done to accommodate desired uses. Regionally consistent plans.
- True cost of impacts: land use decisions/plans should include a component that looks at water use impacts and water quality impacts. Conduct environmental evaluations statewide to assess impacts and then assess fees with impacts.
- Dispute resolution provided by state to resolve conflicts in water resources.
- Fund study to determine costs of land use activities on resources.
- Institutionalize a decision making body made up of state water resource agencies, local governments, implementers, user groups similar to MPO model for transportation.
- Frame a disaster mitigation strategy (?)
- Focus limited state funds on regional solutions only (regional jail model). Retain some funds for rural areas and dispersed projects.
- Public education on water issues—schools, colleges, etc.
- Statewide program which would provide for performance criteria in all areas, like a Resource Management Area throughout locality—zero sum for each activity.
- Need official advocate for the environment—entity with rights to protect. For example, allocation of surface and groundwater in state and assign to a state agency-rights should be managed for the environment. Someone to argue with standing for the environment.
- Create council on Natural Resources like Council on the Environment—long-range planning. Proactive rather than reactive. Include federal agencies as well. (Challenge: how to be inclusive and still effective.)

INCENTIVES

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: NEED GREATER INCENTIVES FOR LANDOWNER TO ADOPT BMP'S (INCLUDE URBAN). FINANCIALLY REWARD GOOD STEWARDS OF LAND. (14)

- Provide more money to Agricultural sector for BMPs.
- Tie BMP to ag. subsidies—maximize return for current ag. investments.
- Anyone who gets incentive money needs to be accountable and include monitoring.

- How many riparian buffers are actually functional (Have we really met our riparian buffer goals???)
- Create a market for nutrient –trading (challenged by some).
- Need time horizon for carrot incentives. After time is up, need stick.
- Need incentives for urban BMP's.
- Real estate taxes could be reduced as BMP's are implemented.
- Local government can establish credits under stormwater utility for local implementation of BMPs.
- Relief from water Quality impact tax
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Waive curb and gutter requirements for low impact development (combine with education program for homeowners).
- Reduce VDOT road requirements
- Allow alternatives to dual-sided streets-trail alternatives
- Planning stages of development, insert alternative design standards --technical review.
- Requirements for costs associated with impervious surfaces and development.
- All stormwater discharges into potable water sources.
- More flexible zoning/land use standards to encourage innovative designs at local level.

IMPROVE REGULATORY APPROACH

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: DESIGN REGULATIONS THAT PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY AND PROVIDE FOR AND ENCOURAGE INNOVATIVE/TECHNOLOGY BASED SOLUTIONS. PROMOTE FLEXIBLE PERFORMANCE BASED OUTCOMES FOR ALL REGULATED COMMUNITIES AND AGENCIES. (13)

- Promote flexibility for those organizations that do a good job. (challenge: making it easy for everyone to meet goal)
- Allow flexible methods, not prescribed methods—still need accountability or baseline---Model (Oregon Green permit program).
- Promote water resource management for plants including water use/ wastewater. Partners: Econ Dev, DEQ.
- Atmosphere for risk acceptance
- Set up an Environmental Excellence (beyond pollution prevention) program to allow corporations/industry to meet goals of programs through innovative technologies. Partners: VMA, DEQ.
- Creation of environment court to address variety of issues.
- Partnership (local government industry) peer review of stormwater technologies.
- Set standards challenge locality to meet and streamline annual review.
- Education regulators on new technology (interstate technology regulatory council).

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: SHOULD INSTITUTE STATEWIDE MANDATORY (LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT) STORMWATER MANAGEMENT. ENCOURAGE OR REQUIRE WATER CONSERVATION/RECYCLE OF EVERYONE. (11)

- Implement bill that would create incentives for “builders” to collect rainwater.
- Funding is self inclusive for rainwater collection through water and sewer savings.
- Support formation for builders for the bay style partnerships to help move LID ordinances through local government approval process. Partners: builders, local governments, and watershed groups.
- Amend Virginia Code from “may” to “shall” in language for stormwater management.
- Public education program for stormwater management—change homeowner behavior (lawns, ex). (Cities should implement)—regional education program on water (HRPDC example). Broad-based public education.
- Create incentives for better lawn care programs. Influence product choices (low-nitrogen lawn fertilizers).
- Incorporate nutrient management/stormwater management into SOL's.

ADDITIONAL GOALS & ASSOCIATED ACTIONS

EROSION & SEDIMENTATION

- Need more effective enforcement of E & S programs. (8)

TECHNICAL TOOLS

- Don't have data/information to properly evaluate something—we need to structure program to get the data. (3)

IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

- Implementation and steps for TMDL (use watershed groups to develop implementation for TMDLs) (2)
- Improve 400 more water-impaired streams; don't just delist them. (1)
- Require biological treatment removal at all sewage plants (1).
- Evaluate pollution based on cumulative impacts.(1)
- Need non-Chesapeake Bay Watershed focus as well.

FUNDING

- Require user fees to fund programs—fees to discharge into waters, permit fees for cost o program, fees for wetland impacts (2).
- Maximizing partnerships. (2)

EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT

- State agencies should do business practice reviews (2)
- Ensure that ideas developed here are specifically tied to owner. Need clear ownership of

MARKETING AND EDUCATION

- Incorporate VDOT standards/planning into locality planning
- Need public education process to better explain water processes.

Work group #3 Final Thoughts

- Need to ensure follow-up, task force, some way to ensure that these goals become implemented! Need responsible parties.
- Not sure that goals from today are comprehensive enough.
- Weak area: citizen involvement in environmental stewardship.
- Not identified things that need to get accomplished by 2006. Good framework but need clear action items.
- Need ownership outside of state government to help get something accomplished. Challenge for us is to pick one thing that could get done and be a legacy for this administration.
- Capture imagination of public—education-long-term. (People are disconnected).

II: Mini-Plenary Discussions

On the second day of the Forum, April 11, two consecutive "mini-plenary" discussions were held to enable input from people who had not been able to participate in the Water Resources work groups the day before. During these mini-plenary discussions participants were first oriented to the highlights of the ideas and suggestions that emerged from the first day of the Forum. They were then given an opportunity to:

- Identify gaps, issues, or concerns that had not yet been addressed.
- Add to or comment on the suggestions developed by the work groups.
- Identify which ideas or themes they would give their greatest support.

The following are comments and suggestions made during each of these mini-plenary discussions.

Water Resources Mini-Plenary #1

Additions to work on Day One:

- Group 2 Goal A: Train citizens in localities in how to use water management data and develop and apply standard methodologies for applying data.
- Need more well data.
- Group 2 Goal F: Need more financial and technical resources for ground water study.
- Group 2 Goal D: Objective 5: One participant echoed the need for mandatory BMPs for forestry and agriculture while another felt that BMPs are not voluntary and are working well.
- Group 2 Goal E: There was support for increasing permit fees to cover costs of monitoring and enforcement. Several participants also noted the need to use other sources of funding in addition, especially to deal with non-point sources of pollution.
- One participant thought that we should have a comprehensive study of s ground water resources (e.g. Maryland) (Goal F objective 2)
- One participant thought we should connect back to land conservation e.g. Goose Creek in Fairfax.
- One participant thought rate fees for utilities should build in costs for restoration , protection
- One participant thought we could use state revolving loan fund (e.g. Ohio) to acquire lands.
- One participant thought that DEQ and DCR should exercise greater control and enforcement of VDOT's erosion and sediment control. Concern: To attempt to reorganize the government might scuttle the work that is being done in this Summit, as it is such a sticky topic.
- One participant thought that local government creates more disturbance than VDOT with development
- One participant thought that the state should initiate water conservation on golf courses. 600,000 gallons of water per day for golf courses is too much. Golf courses should be required to reduce water use and could apply IPM's (Integrated Pest Management)
- One participant thought that we should keep existing rivers that are clean as clean as they currently are. e.g. New River
- One participant thought that we could use volunteers to collect chemical data, well data reporting.
- Could use matching federal funds to study ground water – pilots.
- One participant thought that we could recognize “champions,” This is a key component of Group II Recommendations. (Peer to peer leadership.)
- One participant thought that there could be fee incentives for conservation of household water use.
- We could reclaim, restore waters (e.g. Mine water) instead of using new water.
- One participant thought we could petition the State Water Control Board for rule making authority over ground water in local regions.
- Watershed management needs to target NPS clean up.
- Shift storm water management to larger watershed approach
- We need better stream monitoring throughout the state. Could fund more of it. A higher percentage of the streams could be monitored.
- We need specific costs for specific initiatives to get funding e.g. @cents = what?
- Work at watershed level, not just sporadic testing e.g. buffers here and there.
- One participant thought citizen monitoring needs to be refunded.

The following remarks were submitted in writing:

“Need a comprehensive, full fledged, state-funded and directed study of the state’s groundwater resources. This would require a number of test wells throughout the state and a comprehensive data collection and

analysis program. Maryland is light years ahead of us in learning what happened to their ground water resources. What little data we have in Virginia shows serious depletion of the aquifers in the Northern Neck and in the Hampton Roads area (salt water intrusion in Hampton Roads.) The suspected causes of this depletion are two-fold.

- The effects of the droughts of the past several summers in the mountains and piedmont where the aquifers originate and
- Manmade effects of growing industrial uses in large volumes and new residential development where the residences use well water.

Such a study would also look at the need to coordinate the study as to effects with Maryland in cases where the aquifer is shared. The State Water Control Board has started such a study in the past but it was discontinued due to lack of funds. “

Water Resources Mini-Plenary #2

- More emphasis is needed for aquifers and ground water.
- Balance is needed between problems, causes, and solutions. Everyone should pay their fair share.
- Buffers are the best bang for the buck.
- TMDL implementation through enforcement not assured but needed. State should help do this. Local govt. cannot do alone.
- Need regional focus especially for shared water resources. Emphasize Big Sandy, Powell, Clinch Valley districts.
- Use existing resources better to address nonpoint source pollution. Evaluate what are the real causes of pollution and prioritize which should be addressed first. Get communities involved in designing solutions and better tap federal funds such as the new Farm Bill.
- One participant thought we should rename the State Water Control Board to The Virginia Water Board (VWB)
- Airborne mercury and sulfur dioxide are significant contributors and should be added to Goal D Objective 4.
- Could we tap users of water to help pay? Ex. Boat Fees
- Could partner with the federal government more on CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) to do riparian forest buffers and fencing projects. State needs to match federal funding
- Water Quality Improvement Fund really needs some refunding.
- Virginia Seafood Council
- Seafood Industry bears much of the cost from pollution, fisheries loss. They would like to partner more to address problems, costs.
- One participant expressed a concern that “Fast track” permitting might allow more and faster pollution.
- Need a fundamental philosophical underpinning that + environmental ethic. All need to have an ethic. 1000 cow owner to 1/11 acre. Homeowner. Use state values found in state code – Step 1 – Post your ethics on the wall at your local office so everyone can see them.
- Stormwater treatment programs are a real burden to localities. Localities need help (money, tech assistance) to comply with regulations.
- There is a disconnect between who owns and who pays for environment. All do, so this is an argument for general fund sources.
- Budget cuts hit voluntary programs first – but they are often most effective.
- Several participants echoed the need to move the Department of Forestry under Natural Resources. Another noted that this does not necessarily assure integrated action.

- Government should have glossary of terms that citizens can understand on the web site. What is clean water? What is an ecosystem?
- One participant noted that septic tank provisions are some of the weakest in the nation. They are related to surface and ground water pollution and should be beefed up.
- State must provide adequate funding for development of the 450 required TMDLs.

III: Setting the Context for Discussions

At the beginning of work group discussions on the first day of the Summit, April 10, participants were asked to take some time to reflect on the trends that are currently, or would likely impact the resource in the next three to five years. Participants shared their thinking about the global, regional, and local trends, as a way of informing each other about their perspectives and the pressures perceived to be influencing events.

The following are notes taken during these discussions in each of the work groups. While there may be a fair amount of repetition among the work groups, these notes represent a wealth of understanding and a rich context for understanding the condition of water resources in the Commonwealth.

Local, Regional and Global Trends Impacting Water Resources

Work group #1

- Population Growth in Tidewater is affecting water quality and water policy decisions particularly where groundwater is concerned.
- From a surface water standpoint this is a statewide issue.
- Population Growth and Water Quality are intricately interrelated. This is an issue Virginia has not grappled with before, and it is not being adequately addressed.
- Forested areas are being replaced by development. This results in an increase of impervious surfaces that increase problems of water quality.
- The 40,000 acres of forested land lost is significant. Loss of forests translates into loss of water quality.
- Funding for Natural Resources is declining as the need is rising.
- Virginia's Natural Resources are funded only when there is a surplus.
- Concern: Is there going to be a revenue enhancement or are we going to accept this trend?
- Because Virginia has historically done a good job with few resources, there has been a tendency not to fund the resources. There seems to be recognition that this needs to change.
- Concern: Can Tourism dollars be used for Natural Resources?
- The number of impaired waters is increasing. However, the trends in water quality improvement efforts are improving. Data collection is improving.
- Concern: People need to be educated about nonpoint source pollution and they need to be involved.
- Aging sanitation/septic systems are creating problems.
- There is a lag in what is available and what is being practiced in storm water management. (Innovation is outpacing ordinances.)

- There is less political leadership in conservation and water issues.
- There is more understanding and education about non-point source pollution.
- Citizen Groups are popping up all over the Commonwealth and bridges are being built between the agencies and these groups in order to create a collaborative decision making process.
- Problems are more complex and less obvious. This means that the public's awareness is not as high as it used to be when the pollution was more obvious.
- There is an increased interest in availability of water.
- Water is about to supercede air as the environmental issue to focus on.

Work group #2

- Rapid population growth leads to loss of natural habitat and associated costs with dealing with the demands placed on water resources.
- New development utilizes new technology has alleviated the some of the problems associated with change in land use.
- Budget constraints
- Lack of education of the general public about water as an entitlement as opposed to a resource.
- Aging infrastructure is going to require additional capital to upgrade and keep functioning.
- Water policy is currently broken into regulatory and citizen involvement. Currently, additional strains being placed on citizen groups to make up state funding short falls.
- Brownfields recovery programs are broken.
- Citizen interest in protection of water resources is increasing and very popular topic for involvement.
- Technology is identifying additional pollution sources from in-organic and organic contaminants, which increases costs because of increasing complexity of maintaining and improving public health.
- Increasing use of surface resources in exacerbating the water problems.
- Disconnect between leadership and implementation of water resource programs.
- Increasing demand for water requires additional education about the wise use of the resource.
- Waters in the state rivers and streams are pretty good currently, but are slowly being degraded slightly over time as use increases even though it remains within standards.
- Lack of large water policy initiative within Commonwealth, which is preventing leadership from pushing forward.
- Virginian's tend to address changes incrementally instead in wholesale fashion.
- Deregulation of power industry will increase demand for water for power generation.
- Northern Virginia has seen improvements in water quality over time.
- Lacking incentive (financial and human resources) programs to help improve waters in industries other than farming. There is movement but not moving fast enough to rectify demand. Smaller waste water systems cannot operate efficiently and need help from larger systems- need a carrot to get bigger systems interested.
- Animal excrement is a growing problem in state's waters.
- Regulatory oversight is growing in response to budget shortfalls to make up operating budget.
- Trends for water is away from goal due to lack of money. Ready Fire Aim needs to be changed to Ready Aim Fire.
- Increasing number of laws to regulate problems-while not enforcing existing laws.
- CBAY Law needs to be applied to all areas of drainage into Bay.

Work group #3

- Stormwater management is a big issue and we need solutions that can work in low-funding environment like LID.
- Stormwater Utilities –good source of funding to solve stormwater problems.
- Gap in funding for wastewater treatment (commitments from Bay Agreement)-trend is widening. Goals more stringent, but fewer dollars. Technology is old.
- Government agencies need to work with all partners to address all water resource issues. Needing to expand horizons from large landowners to individual lot owners.
- Funding for distribution and collection system (entire infrastructure) for wastewater treatment facilities also critical. Ancient systems that need to be replaced; expense is a local government issue.
- Increase demand for demonstrated expectations—system does not respond in timeline.
- Nonpoint: 70% land in private landowners –more expectations for voluntary efforts, more accountability.
- WQ –are we using correct measurements—unrealistic expectations. Accept reality that there are number of different uses for waterways—pair up correct uses with standards for more realistic expectations.
- We are now using natural boundaries instead of political boundaries. Watersheds are now more important and nonpoint source has become much more critical. Promote more watershed-based groups.
- Increasing number of impaired waters is disturbing. Governor commitment is to "clean up waterbodies" not to delist. Don't just change the rules; need to make real progress in cleaning up waterways. Water resource and water quality connection is important. How do we reduce demand for water?
- Focus shift from point source to nonpoint. Cows and parking lots—integrate this into TMDL progress.
- Opportunity to deal with nonpoint source pollution through low-cost solutions—design changes, biofiltration, etc.
- Funding issue—there will be no increases.
- Opportunity for partnerships to implement programs is underutilized.
- Volunteers should take more active role in watershed restoration.
- Not only address coordination/sharing of information, but must integrate funding. Sharing dollars.
- Water Quality is always someone else's problem. "We all have our own house to clean."
- Finite amount of water—use water we have like catch rainwater, runoff and reuse in a variety of ways.

IV: Additional Notes from the Work Group Discussions

All work groups were assured that their work would be recorded and kept in the final record of the Summit. In this spirit, the following items are additional pieces of information that represent the work of the participants.

MISCELLANEOUS "PARKING LOT" COMMENTS

Work group #2

- Water quantity and water supply – will that be discussed in this forum?
- Discussion on water quantity and water supply and the interrelation of maintaining healthy ecosystems.
- How are we going to include the pockets of under-served populations who have major water supply issues and are not represented during these and other discussions?
- Water supply is a state issue and of paramount importance to Commonwealth.

- General note: statistics provided stem from monitoring of only 20% of the impaired waters in the Commonwealth.
- Ground water needs to be included in this topic along with the surface waters that are addressed in the issue paper.
- NPS pollution is a very important issue and point sources of pollution in private households need to be considered during this discussion.
- Increase public access to waterways.

Work group #3

- Recognize that water resources include both water quantity and water quality issues. Cannot separate quantity and quality.

GROUP DISCUSSIONS OF GOALS & VISION FOR WATER RESOURCES (CONTAINED IN THE BACKGROUND PAPERS PREPARED FOR THE SUMMIT)

Work group #2 Comments on the "Working Vision"

- "The Commonwealth's waters will have balanced (Group #2 thinks this is redundant) and healthy ecosystems in support of the public good (Group #2 this is vague). The vision should include people, wildlife, habitat, etc. Code specifies health, safety, and welfare. Suggest substituting word "interest" for good."

WORK GROUP #2 (RAW GOALS)

- Reduce all (appropriate) non-point and point sources of pollution (that are causing problems)
- Protect exceptional (all)waters from degradation
- Restore all waters that do not fully support the public good(vague)
- Formal and non-formal education should be a higher priority to the government and communities in their watershed.
- Increase funding for water quality management. Create an environment conducive to generating funding issues.
- Improve protection of wetlands (improve the compliance of existing regulatory program)
- Recognize/better clean up on non-point sources.
- Eliminate regulatory barriers to meeting environmental goals.
- Achieve more environmental protection through better regulatory actions.
- More pollution prevention through substantial incentives to achieve cleanup voluntary.
- Increase constituencies for water quality protection to establish increased political will to affect change.
- Develop better public awareness of the need for cleaner rivers and the need to protect existing waters.
- All state agencies cooperate to enforce existing environmental law.

- Greater compliance of CBAY regulations to include currently exempted programs and expand the area of coverage. Footnote: expand laws to cover all watersheds as opposed to just CBAY.
- Remove regulatory barriers to meet environmental goals.
- Reduce Nitrogen
- Preserve habit for aquatic life.
- Better understanding of global warming trends on water supply.
- Increase public access to existing water resources.
- Specific inventory of water resources easily accessible and in one place.
- Increase tools for environmental planning (model from economic development)
- Identification and prioritization of specific needs and programs requiring funding.
- Increase data collected on ground and surface waters especially mining and other land uses.
- Reduce contamination of water from air pollution.
- Empower local governments to make water quality decision opposed to state level decision.
- Maintain the integrity of local governments to make decisions.
- Increase funding to ensure all households has safe drinking water.
- Increase consistency of CBAY enforcement.
- Make all Virginia's water unequivocally swimmable.
- Increase the ability of stakeholders to work cooperatively to enforce consistent standards.
- Increase the cooperation between localities to water on watershed basis.
- Eat Lynhaven oysters by 2007.
- Renew support and increase incentives for participation in basin roundtables.
- Provide additional resources to re-establish filtering feeders
- Establish mandatory Best Management Practices for Agriculture and Forestry.

LAND CONSERVATION

I. Goals, Actions, Partnerships, And Other Implementation Steps For The Next Three Years And Beyond

On the first day of the Forum, April 10, two separate work groups each discussed what could be done to improve protection of land conservation in the Commonwealth. Participants were asked the following questions:

- What specific goals and commitments would you suggest are do-able in the next three years and beyond?
- What specific actions would help realize these goals in the next three years and beyond?
- What specific partnerships and other steps are needed to implement these actions in the next three years and beyond?

For each of these series of discussions, participants were asked to indicate their support for the suggested goals, actions, and partnerships. The number of people within the work group that supported a particular item is indicated in parenthesis, e.g. (16). The numbers in parentheses should be seen as an indicator of the most supported or most immediately pressing ideas. It is very important to note, however, that a low number of votes for an idea does *NOT* mean that the idea was not supported. In a number of work groups at the Summit there was often broad support for many more ideas than could be demonstrated. Hence, ideas with a low number of votes should be given due consideration during the implementation phase.

WORK GROUP #1

IMPORTANT NOTE

The group did not have a vote, but achieved consensus on the following six goals having equal importance under the following question. In addition, the group experienced consensus for all actions listed, except where objections are noted.

Group Question: How can the Governor, under the powers he now has or under additional laws he can persuade his General Assembly to enact, help move Virginia forward to implement the goals of Article 11?

ACTIONS FOR CONSENSUS GOAL: DEVELOP NEW ETHICS/VISION BASED ON ARTICLE 11

- Useful theme for an overall environmental 6-year program: Virginia's Historic and Natural Heritage because "Heritage Virginia" is not a wacky environmentalist sounding description, and it resonates with Virginians.
- We need to make our vision come alive. So few people have actually read Article 11 that we'll actively need to incorporate into our educational efforts, into many efforts so that people become familiar with its mandate. Incorporate Article 11 and land conservation questions into the Standards of Learning (SOLs) questions.
- We need to create a holistic approach to land conservation, and the Governor could leave as his legacy a "land conservation program" spread across agencies and including information provided by non-profits, and state and privately held databases [as related to two of the goals agreed upon earlier (Article 11 goal and Develop a planning and program process)]

- A state appointed commission could be created to flesh out the “vision” or “envisioning Virginia Process”; this would capture the attention of academics, of the general population, of secondary schools. But this process MUST develop actual visual images (using the best technology) to help the public and all stakeholders to understand the possibilities of the program.
- Use one of VDOTs ten \$2 million grants for transportation to distribute to the local Planning District Commissions to come up with regional transportation plans consistent with what Article 11 lays out for the Commonwealth (3 who have concerns and 3 objections)

ACTIONS FOR CONSENSUS GOAL: PROTECT THE "RIGHT" RESOURCES

- Virginia and Virginians need a workable, usable database that integrates all data that could eventually evolve into a “natural and historic resources dashboard” like VDOT has. A public database might have: slopes, prime soils, ag lands, scenic reserves, viewsheds, groundwater, historic resources, Civil war sites and other battlefields, tree/forest cover. Make sure that rural areas and small towns have equal access to the database.
- “Protect the right resources” should be based on sound and fully developed science so that we are not inefficiently using resources (both private and public). Regulations should be developed after we can make an educated guess as to whether they would be useful; we need to use available financial resources the most effective way, so that if ag is contributing the greatest amount to pollution, we should spend the most to control ag. Protect healthy functioning ecosystems and target large contiguous blocks of land.
- We need to complete the soil survey of Virginia (96% has been mapped with approximately 1 million acres remaining)
- Get industry buy-in for land conservation and natural resource protection: clarify tax credit law (for business and others) and voluntary land transfers.
- State should fulfill Article 11 with its own lands, including complying with local land planning.
- Perhaps we need to raise the capital that will allow us to look at opportunities as they arise. If land becomes available on the market, perhaps we could look at its public value (for water quality, habitat, functioning ecosystems, recreation, historic resources) and if it qualifies as high priority according to a set list of standards or rating system, let’s purchase and protect it. When doing this, we need to accurately value the land as it relates to natural resources protection by asking what its protection would do for preventing fragmentation. (one objection)
- When a regulation is proposed, there needs to be sound basis for it, and regulatory action needs to get the best bang for a buck. Nothing should be based on conjecture, there should be a clear expected benefit from any regulation.
- We need a real, economic Incentive for private landowners that takes the economic reason to develop land away – there should be statewide mandated, land use taxation: it should consider use-value taxation on open space, forestry, horticulture, agriculture, other uses (one objection)
- Apply Chesapeake Watershed regulations to the state, so we don’t have unequal applications of resource protection across the state and possibly take the New York example for land conservation around the state: since 1920 NYC has paid to save its own water, and saved much money in public water infrastructure while simultaneously protecting healthy functioning ecosystems (four objections)

ACTIONS FOR CONSENSUS GOAL: ACCOMMODATE GROWTH IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY COMPATIBLE WAY

- Couple of years ago a by-right clustering bill was introduced, but it failed, it should be explored. Perhaps a model ordinance could be developed and introduced at the state level that localities could adopt related to an open space bank/clustering bill so that it could be adopted by choice at the local level. (one objection) [Editor's Note: After the Summit a participant noticed this idea, and wished to clarify that a bill was passed in 2002 which makes cluster development a by-right form of development in communities that allow it. This does not negate the usefulness of a model ordinance for localities.]
- Create an "Open Space Bank," like a wetlands bank. If you were in a clustering program, you would be able to develop your land fully, but you must (if you are to do that) purchase land in the open space bank that would be held by the state or by non-profits. This would provide money for protection of even greater land protection
- Adopt best practices model/ manual put out by the state or others that would relate to guidelines for a community.

- Get rid of obstacles in state and local codes that prevent environmentally compatible/sensitive development. It would be similar to a manual.
- State should give local governments the guidance (push like this is what it means to be a Virginia locality), measurable goals (what are the measurable goals for state that apply to localities); regulatory tools, technical assistance (like BMP manual) (two objections, especially to regulatory tools)
- Consider TDRs
- State should take the lead (modeled after the Chesapeake Bay Act) in defining clear, concise guidelines to implement article 11 of the Commonwealth constitution
- Each county should tie comprehensive plan to actual demographics or population projects, and then in completing the plan to accommodate actual projected growth, make sure that these comp plans are based on the carrying capacity of air, water, land resources, etc. in that locality; Design with nature, whether than assuming we can engineer ourselves out of any problem
- Mandate a capital improvement program at the local level
- Promote adequate public facilities ordinances
- Discourage large lot zoning in high growth zoning
- Inventory vacant and underutilized lands in a growth area; prioritize incentives for redevelopment

ACTIONS FOR CONSENSUS GOAL: DEVELOP PLANNING PROCESS

- Create a state planning office, it should be able to take care of conflict resolution; Catch up localities who have not yet digitized parcel maps or caught up with technology.
- We should have a state gubernatorial commission looking at planning, and establishing state planning goals and objectives.
- The business community should sit at the planning table on all commissions.
- We need a natural and historic resource heritage process that results in real programs.
- State should fund aggressive land use and transportation scenarios at the regional levels.
- Recreate Virginia Council on the Environment. (one objection)
- The Commonwealth should establish state planning goals and objectives that could be provided as a tool to localities. (two objections)

ACTIONS FOR CONSENSUS GOAL: ADD LAND MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Keep state tax credit for easement program.
- Dedicated state grant funding for private land trusts.
- Full funding for Virginia Outdoors Foundation.
- Dedicated funding source for Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.
- Work on integrating local government mapping systems with state mapping systems.
- Some suburbs have severely deteriorating homes; we need some financial incentives or tax credit programs for older suburbs that desperately need rehab.
- Newly elected municipal training; we need to train our elected officials.
- The state should provide/fund training for tax assessors, appraisers, realtors, real estate bar, and those who have direct contact with landowners.
- Virginia Cooperative Extension program should have a land conservation component (or agricultural extension).
- Have someone in the finance department who could be an expert in assessing from a state point of view the real/true value of conservation easements and should provide reassessments from time to time that would provide the counties with guidance (localities say that finding an honest assessor is so difficult).
- Go to the Bar association and ask them to take on some of this work for land conservation on a pro-bono basis. We need some of the legal help covered, because if more landowners knew that they could get that cost covered, they might be more likely to donate conservation easements.

- We need to ask the Feds/Navy/Army to surplus GIS equipment to local governments when they are through with it (and after it is demilitarized).

ACTIONS FOR CONSENSUS GOAL: FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- We need a USDA slaughterhouse in the Southwest. Right now farmers have to ship cattle west for a few months to feed and fatten, and then New Zealand Beef is cheaper than VA beef; if we kill it here we can market it as Blue Ridge, grass-fed beef and recoup value added costs.
- The creation of a forest cooperative, to recoup the value-added, and a certified forestry program.
- Fund the Natural History Museum because you are getting the added benefit of its extensive environmental education program.
- Restructure the tax code, dedicate two percent for natural and historic resources.
- Landowners need an incentive, or a little help in protecting the resources on their lands, and there are several federal programs that we could take advantage of to do that if we had a state match.
- If you look at VDOTs roadways planned for the future; and pre-mitigate their implementation. You know you're going to be mitigating 20 years down the road, why not mitigate now before everything is fragmented? (one objection)
- Consider creating a land bank modeled after the wetlands mitigation bank – we need to create the legal hook to do it (one objection)
- The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation is a vehicle to fund projects, but it has no dedicated funding source. It needs a minimum of \$40 million per year to 1) fund matching grants to nonprofits; 2) fund matching grants to localities; and 3) provide money for state agencies.
- We need to address the administrative burden for state agencies who hold easements so that they can monitor and enforce easements.
- Market-based conservation to capture profit to be made, especially through the creation and promotion of eco-communities amongst private communities.
- Capture the value of the “public good” either through a special tax district or some other vehicle so that there was a user fee on utility rates to cover related costs of watershed protection (or other resource degradation).
- Leverage interests of development (in density) community for conservation purposes.
- If we talk about a dedicated funding source, let's think about a statewide impact fee on rezonings, it would be captured at the state level and be directed to land conservation in the same watershed that the rezoning is in. (2 objections)
- Carry the rollover tax to ten years instead of 5 years. (one objection)
- Percentage of the recordation tax on parcel transfers to land conservation (two objections)
- Per ton Tipping fees on trash with money to land conservation (3 objections)
- Conservation as core state services (a bill may be introduced that would fund core services from the state) – make sure resource conservation is listed.
- Continue the Vehicle registration fee for land conservation
- Seek broad-based general fund support; stay away from special taxes and fees.

Group #1 Comments about their Six Goals

- Folks sometimes deny that people are coming, population is growing
- When saying we need to “protect the right resources” we need to make sure we are including ALL the right resources, and defining the resources we want to protect is a big part of the process
- Article 11 of the Virginia Constitution: it could be our vision, our ethics, already defined
- Article 11 is not three dimensional, it doesn't provide an image or a picture (so perhaps it's not a vision)
- State must participate in and then abide by local plans

- VDOT has a six-year program not a plan, what's going to be done, not what's envisioned. Virginia needs a six-year "program" that defines what tasks are going to be completed in a given time span. Were that the case, you would either get projects on the program, or they would not be prioritized.

WORK GROUP #2

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: INCREASE FUNDING AND THE PRIORITY FOR LAND CONSERVATION. (17)

- Develop dedicated and reliable funding source. (24)
- Utilize recordation fee for dedicated funding source. (10)
- Develop a feasible mechanism to use bond proceeds for easements. Requires the Attorney opinion (10)
- Restore General Fund match for Reforestation of timberlands (RT) program. (6)
- (Utilize) Fund Erg Vitality, Farm Link to support Virginia Rural Centers.(6)
- Increase operational funds for State natural resources agencies. (5)
- The State could make natural resources a priority in the General Assembly (2004). (5)
- Explore Tobacco Commission funding for land (farm) preservation. (4)
- Strengthen DGIF funding to avoid "raiding", constitutional prescriptions (2)
- Develop awareness in VA of level of Federal funds dedicated to VA state operations.(1)
- Allow localities to use transient occupancy tax for open space. (1)
- Develop economic benefits analysis for historic and natural resource funding.
- Develop aggressive strategy for Federal funding.
- Increase match to dedicated State funding.
- Market the natural resources plan for amount of funding needed.
- Governor could make natural resources a priority in his budget proposal.
- Link benefits of the proposed budget to specific localities (areas of the state).

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: STRENGTHEN EXISTING TOOLS AND INCENTIVES FOR LAND CONSERVATION. (17)

- Create local PACs to increase legislative accountability for votes on land conservation. (2)
- Create partnerships with League of Conservation Voters and engage the development community.
- Allow VDOT to donate land between 2 termini in perpetuity (conservation easements). (12)
- Allow localities to use transient occupancy tax for open space preservation. (12)
- Develop a process to allow bond proceeds to be used for purchase of conservation easements. Make available to Virginia Land Conservation Fund. (Need Attorney General opinion) ((10)
- Protecting existing perpetual easements. (9)
- Give counties the same abilities as individual cities with regard to land conservation. (7)
- Consider preservation status for Clinch River watershed to increase leverage EPA funds. (5)
- The State could make historic and natural resources a priority in the General Assembly (2004). (5)
- The State could sponsor legislation to allow VDOT to build roads with assurance that there would be no interchanges in segments (e.g., Scenic easements could be retained and allow VDOT not to return scenic shoulders to landowners; reduce/minimize sprawl & local opposition; applies to sewer lines also). (3)
- Add criteria of land conservation to existing award system(s). (3)
- The State can make land conservation "showcase issues" replicating successful models (e.g., local, and state partnerships, academic) and media events. (2)
- The State could support legislation to enact mandatory BMPs for logging activities in mountainous counties. (2)
- Manage state owned land for conservation and historic purposes – Governor Executive Order. (2)
- State land surplus offered to State conservation agencies prior to sale. (1)
- Look at select poor legislation and see if it can be delayed. Gov. initiated. (1)

- Allow localities to shift density for land conservation gain (Transfer of Development Rights TDR)
- Market the natural and historic resources plan for amount of funding needed.
- Governor could make natural and historic resources a priority in his budget proposal.
- Link benefits of the proposed budget to specific localities (areas of the state).
- Reconfigure the Cleanwater Revolving Fund to allow for grants for land conservation.
- Convene private non-profits/foundations and corporations and discuss funding
- Increase the leverage for funds with matching grants.
- Empower planning districts for activity-based costing for land use planning and incentive-based programs for private landowners.
- Close loophole on wetland protection legislation.

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: DEVELOP A CONSISTENT OVERARCHING LAND CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR VIRGINIA THAT INCORPORATES THE EXISTING CHESAPEAKE BAY 2000 (C2K) AND 2007 GOALS. (16)

- The State could identify and target significant lands within jurisdictions to move toward the goal of 1million acres. (4)
- Jurisdictions could develop regional watershed plans.(2)
- The State could create an accomplishment timeline. (1)
- The State could break down sector by sector, (i.e., historic, open space, etc.) (1)
- The State could encourage localities to engage in the process to develop their own open space plans.
- The State could break down C2K allocations by jurisdictions.
- The State could refine the 2007 goal to include private lands.
- The State could restructure the State focus in land conservation to make the State a technical resource to localities.
- The State could establish an oversight group for land conservation (advocacy).
- The State could support local open space commitments to state land conservation goals.

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: INTEGRATE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND LAND CONSERVATION. (14)

- No actions specified

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: SUPPORT THE VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY AND THE RURAL ECONOMY. (13)

- Promote the concept of “working landscapes” for agriculture and forestry Vs preservation and not “working.” (8)

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: ESTABLISH THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND/OR AUTHORITY FOR LOCALITIES TO SUPPORT RESOURCE CONSERVATION. (9)

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: DEVELOP A MARKETING STRATEGY TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF LAND CONSERVATION. (7)

- Develop a universal logo/motto or message slogan for land conservation. (10)
- Develop economic benefit analysis for natural resources. (5)
- The State could make historic and natural resources a priority in the General Assembly (2004). (5)
- Utilize media/cable TV to highlight land conservation success. Include public service announcement in assessment bills. (4)
- State could take the lead in developing a marketing strategy under a larger “initiative”
- Involve a private marketing firm.
- Fact based approach.
- Market the historic and natural resources plan for amount of funding needed.
- Governor could make historic and natural resources a priority in his budget proposal.

- Link benefits of the proposed budget to specific localities (areas of the state).

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: ENHANCE PARTNERSHIPS WITH FEDERAL, PRIVATE, LOCAL AND OTHER STATE ENTITIES. (4)

- Develop a universal logo/motto or message slogan for land conservation. (10)
- Utilize media/cable TV to highlight land conservation success. Include public service announcement in assessment bills. (4)
- Fact based approach. Replicate success stories for VA, privately generated, partnerships, academic, media (2)
- State could take the lead in developing a marketing strategy under a larger "initiative"
- Involve a private marketing firm.

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS NOT ASSIGNED TO SPECIFIC GOALS

- Encourage and reward development that minimizes adverse impact on the environment and give certainty to developers.
- Assignment by judges of convicted criminals to clean up streams/roads.

IDEA SUBMITTED FOLLOWING THE SUMMIT

- Establish a "Constituency Council" for natural resources that would be communicated with on a "monthly" basis, and would meet possibly twice a year, once in late November or early December to prepare for the General Assembly. This would help build a strong and diverse constituent base. There could also be "sub-committees" for wildlife, water, forestry, land... These could meet as often as necessary. The Council would reflect the diversity that is reflected by these meeting, but also roundtables, churches, colleges..... Issues could be discussed at meetings and when possible a consensus report issued, and when not a document reflecting "pros" and "cons."

II: Mini-Plenary Discussions

On the second day of the Forum, April 11, two consecutive "mini-plenary" discussions were held to enable input from people who had not been able to participate in the Land Conservation work groups the day before. During these mini-plenary discussions participants were first oriented to the highlights of the ideas and suggestions that emerged from the first day of the Forum. They were then given an opportunity to:

- Identify gaps, issues, or concerns that had not yet been addressed.
- Add to or comment on the suggestions developed by the work groups.
- Identify which ideas or themes they would give their greatest support.

The following are comments and suggestions made during each of these mini-plenary discussions.

Friday Mini-Plenary #1

Marketing:

- Was there discussion yesterday beyond private tax advantages/incentives for conservation easements? Perhaps when a business comes to Virginia and puts large tracts of land under conservation easement, there should be a large, established recognition program for the businesses who volunteer to do that sort of thing
- Perhaps there should be a Governor's recognition program for businesses who participate in land conservation

- There should be a marketing program for Virginia that includes not only the businesses in the area, but we should include marketing programs for Virginia's success in land conservation at the private level
- Large corporations are now having trouble meeting the "triple bottom line" dealing with sustainable development/sustainable living – the public/community contributions that make up that bottom line in which a company participates should be recognized at the state level so that the corporation can point to state recognition when telling the community they are contributing to the public good
- We must market our success in land conservation to the public, and let landowners know what they are "getting" (in addition to "giving") when they donate a conservation easement – both at the corporate level and among individual landowners. This should be turned into a big advertisement campaign
- Guideline for municipalities so that could qualify as a "certified green community" just as they qualify for a "certified main street community." This would set for urban, rural, and suburban communities what threshold they must have in land conservation, and other environmental areas (historic preservation), other water quality areas, etc.
- IF a guideline for communities is established (certified green community), then that guideline must be floating, or you might arrive at environmental justice issues in low income/minority communities
- We should market the backyard habitat program (already in place through a nonprofit designation) in urban areas
- Perhaps the regional planning districts could be doing these marketing programs, instead of the state.
- Find some economic development money that could be put towards this effort to recognize/encourage business to help with land conservation (perhaps a business opportunity fund?) or to market incentive programs, instead of taking that money from an already limited natural resource budget
- We need to talk more to the citizens to build support for a natural resource maintenance fee or some of shift of responsibility to put land conservation costs back to the citizens

Funding:

- In order to meet the 2007 goals and the C2K goals, we must recognize that most of the land conservation to date has happened at the private sector level. We must fully fund Virginia Outdoors Foundation if we are going to market our success in land conservation at the state level, and develop a dedicated source of funds for land conservation. It must be on going.
- We have never had a broad coalition for support for any natural resource funding issue. The business community and others have to sign on to a broad coalition supporting "a dedicated source" and then we talk about what that source might be and we ALL support it.
- Recordation tax going to land conservation, and we have to recognize that folk believe that will affect home sales, and so there must be a lot of negotiation to see how much goes back to County, how much goes to land conservation, how to alleviate potential decrease in home sales.
- Many agree that the money raised should go back to the locality it is raised in (regarding recordation tax)
- Flat, one-dollar transfer fee on all deeds, as opposed to a real estate fee (perhaps it could be \$5 or \$10 dollar fee), perhaps some percentage on the seller side and some percentage on the buyer side. * rather than making this a random number, we need to think about which dollar amount is needed and for what reasons
- Agreement among some that we can't redistribute money from other areas, we need new money, so perhaps the flat transfer fee is a better option
- New money potential: predicated on all people in VA are resource users, so we're all responsible for the protection, so perhaps there should be a general increase in the sales tax of one quarter percent across the board. Missouri has done that at the rate of 1/8 of one percent.
- Should set a goal for at least \$40 million per year in dedicated funding to start with. This is a first level goal, and it should be based on what other states have done, or how much land we could protect with that. Afterwards, we say we could get there with these options (\$X transfer fee, \$X user fee, etc.) and make a

decision on which decision is the best. This relates to the bullet above which suggests that we can't just give a random amount, we have to actually think about this number and why it's a good one.

- Operation of our agencies are required by the constitution of Virginia, and we shouldn't necessarily restrict ourselves to undedicated sources of funding that may not be there in the future
- Perhaps the only thing we can get past the House of Delegates is to do a bond that goes directly to the public for a referendum for land conservation at maximum dollars
- Perhaps we could build off the support of the bond issue for parks improvement, and we'll have to overcome the fear of money going to Richmond and staying there
- There are problems going with the bonding route, however. Bonds must go to capital projects, and that would have to be addressed. A permanent source of funding will leverage additional private dollars, federal moneys, and private capital, to match what you've dedicated at state level. A bond might not do that.
- Perhaps we structure the bond to include an annuity – two levels could be associated with the bond where the top goes to capital, then bottom goes to protection of land and operating costs
- People approved that parks bond because they knew that no one in Richmond was going to steal the money and use it for other purposes in a really tight budget. SO if we talk about a transfer fee or any other funding source, we need a constitutional amendment that keeps it earmarked perpetually and can't be shifted. We need a campaign to make sure people know that that's the case.
- Who owns the wildlife of the state? If you say it's the Commonwealth, then acknowledge that there is a gap between the people who own the wildlife and the people who are paying for protection of that land. SO perhaps we need the broadest base possible instead of just user fees on fishermen, hunters, etc.
- All the talk about tax leads us to state tax reform, and natural resources should have a place a the tax reform table
- People were angry that the state wasn't asking for more than ¼ of what they actually needed in the parks bond. People wanted it, and they wanted the parks to be fully protected. So we need to have the constituents tell their representatives that they want natural resource protection.
- Tax reform must be revenue neutral (no net increase in taxes)
- Public needs to know the difference between improvements and operation and maintenance costs, and we need provisions for both
- Tipping Fee
- VDOT has money (although it's not as much as they'd like) VDOT should think about using some of they're money for viewshed protection (they're turning down TEA-21 grants for viewshed protection)

Other Comments

- "Fix" the system, and really admit errors in natural resource protection to date, before asking the citizens to give more money
- Forestry Department should be moved under natural resources
- Consider how any of these solutions will affect the business community. Would business leave the state if a tipping fee were in place?

Friday Mini-Plenary #2

Conservation easements:

- \$40 million won't get you much if you're buying land, but if you are talking about conservation easements, then you can get much more for your conservation dollar. Landowners, however, don't know about easement options and why the positives surrounding easements outweigh the drawbacks.
- Streamline (and publicize streamlined ideas) tax credits for easement donation. Landowners find it confusing. Training is needed on options and process.
- Virginia has an active historic preservation easement program as well. We need to publicize this option as well. Need more training on options.
- There are costs to holding easements, and if we in Virginia are going to keep holding easements and promoting them, then we need to provide financial support to the organizations holding conservation easements.
- Is the tax department holding back tax information because they are worried about losing money due to easement tax credits?
- Partnering opportunities: new, local land trusts are now popping up in addition to Virginia outdoors Foundation. If easements are co-held, perhaps VOF has monitoring authority but local land trusts can facilitate a swifter response to landowners who are interested in donating a conservation easement.
- 15-year temporary conservation easements can be a problem. Some landowners may drain a ducks unlimited wetlands easement after the 15-year limit, then reapply for a new easement. This is a problem. We need a way for easements to move to permanency.
- We should still keep term-easements, however, and we also should have term-PDRs. Need something in between Ag-Forestal Districts and permanent easements.
- Landowners are concerned that they won't be able to have working farms or working forests if they donate a conservation easement. The state might ensure that this is possible.

Planning:

- We need to make sure there are consistencies across the counties regarding incentives for conservation, property taxes, tax assessments, tax breaks, etc. There should be more state oversight of what goes on at the local level in terms of land assessment. This would encourage land conservation.
- As a first action plan for the comment above (consistency between localities): Look at mapping for each county, all on one map, and put conservation lands, comprehensive plans, tax assessments, and get a regional and state level assessment/awareness of the inconsistencies between counties with regards to planning and conservation. Landowners should have access to these maps.
- Education of local officials is critical, especially in getting them to follow through with the comprehensive plans.
- Pay attention to connection between land use and transportation. Make sure that land use and transportation and actually in line with conservation options and areas designated for conservation.
- Cluster development should be encouraged so that you can place an open space easement on the remaining property. Many counties will not adopt cluster development ordinances.
- Let's look at low-impact development. BUT there are problems. Can't make a narrow road, because of VDOT regulations. There are many other examples of regulatory barriers to reducing environmental impact.
- Mandate VDOT to change there standards OR allow localities to require VDOT to do more than their standards direct them to do with regards to storm water management or low impact road building.

Incentives:

- Incentives. We need to do away with disincentives like the estate tax, but we need to look for as many INCENTIVES as we can.
- We need landowners who pursue conservation options like stream buffer protection in areas where land is highly valued (like in Reston) to have the same tax break that non-profits do on their building.

- We need a wetlands and stream mitigation fund set up at DCR where DCR could use money that developers are paying into mitigation funds immediately. State is more likely to follow state laws with regards to mitigation, The Nature Conservancy may not necessarily be following state law and putting mitigation in same watershed.
- Estate tax could cause the unwanted consequence of making folks have to sell off land. We need to find a solution to that.
- Red flag goes us with any mention of a new tax. There should be a greater use of tax incentives.

Other Comments

- Historic Preservation is not given enough mention in the write up.
- We should consider using the time over the next little while when potentially the money going into the general fund will be growing, we should build coalitions so that we are poised we take more of the general fund when the pot finally grows. In the mean time, we should be following a short-term track to find monies from outside the general fund.
- We need revenue (pledge) bonds to be able to acquire additional lands. Whatever fees come in from the project go off to pay the funds. This protects the funds of the departments, but it allows the department to be able to do stuff now.
***** comment, perhaps these are pledge bonds instead of revenue bonds*****
- Concern over revenue bonds: they could just change the time of the money coming in, rather than increasing the pot of money available. This could be a short-term fix, but in the long term, we need a better solution.
- State should match industry severance or live up to commitments to match RT agreement it has with the forest industry.

III: Setting the Context for Discussions

At the beginning of work group discussions on the first day of the Summit, April 10, participants were asked to take some time to reflect on the trends that are currently, or would likely impact the resource in the next three to five years. Participants shared their thinking about the global, regional, and local trends, as a way of informing each other about their perspectives and the pressures perceived to be influencing events.

The following are notes taken during these discussions in each of the work groups. While there may be a fair amount of repetition among the work groups, these notes represent a wealth of understanding and a rich context for understanding the condition of water resources in the Commonwealth.

Local, Regional and Global Trends Impacting Land Conservation

Work group #1

- We're gaining 1,000 new Virginians per week (growth #'s from UVA) – we NEED a commonwealth policy for land use, and a state office of planning
- Counties and state sometimes encourage economic growth, but discouraging housing, though the two are related. How can we meld the two and still protect the environment?

- Not clear about background paper: "Assuming it is accurate." If we're really interested in changing the status quo with natural resource protection (not keeping the same rate of resource consumption we've had for past 50 years), we've got to do something different. How do we catch up with Land Conservation and with making sure that Land use and land use laws are not at odds?

Work group #2

- Natural Resources do not have enough funding.
- Virginia has historically relied on donations.
- Need for local government involvement.
- Need combination municipal, public and private funding for private land.
- Virginia leads the nation in historic properties.
- State should focus on maintaining what we have.
- Virginia needs a baseline to understand where we stand in relation to other states.
- Virginia is a leader in private land conservation.
- Virginia needs a higher level of science based process to assess priorities for goals.
- Virginia has greater needs than other states, since it ranks high in biodiversity risk.
- Virginia is understaffed and cannot monitor and enforce the easements and historic properties that we have.
- Local government partners have the authority to assist the State in monitoring and funding conserved land.
- VOF leads in acres protected
- Prioritization is important, including small acre properties, which are on the increase due to fragmentation.
- Localities need more State support for local land use policy to protect the environment.
- Localities have historically taken a reactive approach and need to become more proactive.
- Virginia needs to do a better job of engaging local leaders in what needs to be done.
- Virginia needs a comprehensive statewide plan and needs to identify the "biggest bang for the buck."
- Virginia is losing agricultural land and needs to increase Agriculture Vitality in all discussions of land conservation.
- Land use linked to water quality protection
- State needs to add land use charges to existing fees.
- Virginia needs net forest gain to sustain 1.0 and industry.
- ACTION: need broad-based funding paradigm.

IV: Additional Notes from the Work Group Discussions

All work groups were assured that their work would be recorded and kept in the final record of the Summit. In this spirit, the following items are additional pieces of information that represent the work of the participants.

MISCELLANEOUS "PARKING LOT" COMMENTS

Work group #1

- Sprawl is the Law in Virginia, and we have to change that.
- We have a shortage of housing for workers.
- We need to restore the Governor's Advisory Commission that was eliminated under Wilder's Administration.

- Designate pilot areas that agree to cross-jurisdictional acceptance of comprehensive plans (regional planning that incorporates holistic ecosystems protection, economic development, growth plans) to see how it might work. Possibly get the pilot area to commit to the process and its implementation.
- “Envision Virginia” – a projection of current future land use trends and future projections that will start with comparing and contrasting local land use.

GROUP DISCUSSIONS OF GOALS & VISION FOR WATER RESOURCES (CONTAINED IN THE BACKGROUND PAPERS PREPARED FOR THE SUMMIT)

WORK GROUP #1

- Need a paradigm shift so that society as a whole has an “environmental ethic”
- There is no guidance for planning being done at the local level
- Change the patterns of development so that we’re not using land twice as fast as our population is growing

Gap Analysis of Proposed Working Goals: Comments/Expansions/Suggestions/Additions

- The state could set great land use policies (as examples) with its own land – including universities.
- Perhaps we need a merging of local land use plans, rather than a statewide plan
- Pay attention to Federal regulations, give clear concise state guidelines
- We need to make sure we are tracking land use well (ag, forest, land use) and conversion of historic uses (satellite data?).
- We haven’t laid out growth/land use trends, and what trends can be sustained in the future. We don’t know what lands counties have identified in Comp Plans for what use where statewide. Are state and County consistent?
- We as a state need to decide where we want to try and address land conservation so state use of funds for land use and land conservation can be considered
- On the conservation side, we need green infrastructure planning. Eventually we must coordinate green and gray infrastructure planning.
- Virginia Council on the Environment (Baliles administration) should have put all the state’s information on computers so that all agencies had access to all information on planning/data provided by the various agencies.
- We could map transportation, local planning, and land use and we could then develop an overall land use and transportation policy. It is Extremely resource intensive to put all available GIS layers available for each county in a region or across the state in one place.

WORK GROUP #2

- The state needs to overlap land conservation goals and breakdown goal by historic lands, parks, etc. and to provide a rationale for funding when parks and historic preservation rank number one in the nation.
- The State has a disconnect between the 2 goals.
- 500 historic properties as a goal; currently have 350.
- State agency and local government objectives need to be connected to facilitate land conservation, e.g. Loudon.

DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIFIC GOALS FOR THE NEXT 3 TO 5 YEARS

WORK GROUP #1 (RAW GOALS)

- Protect functioning natural systems (clean air, clean water, habitat, whole ecosystems, natural resources) so that we can sustain desired levels of population and development, perhaps require ecosystems conservation as part of comprehensive planning
- Pay for conserving whole ecosystems using market-based incentives, distribute the cost of this protection, but much can come from the state level
- Explore a state plan to protect these functional ecosystems (for example: where are Virginia's water supplies? How can they protect them and their relationship to keeping whole ecosystems healthy?)
- Achieve protection of both housing needs (of all levels of housing) and environment at the local level identified in planning
- Weigh the value of wetlands/open space protection in urban areas against urban/suburban fringe development (what's worse for the environment?)
- Redevelop already developed land in urban/suburban areas, paying close attention to historic preservation; Encourage more dense development (related to keeping population growth and land conversion rates in line with each other); Look at clustering for new housing projects, drawbacks and benefits, guidelines
- Increase land conservation/land conservation capacity (tools, people, and financial)
- Facilitate understanding of where opportunities are for increasing redevelopment and increasing land conservation: including the use of an inventory in each region/locality to identify under-used lands (unused parking lots, abandoned buildings, etc). Washington D.C did this.
- Help localities that do not have land use taxes, or solutions to the evaporation of traditional economic forces such as tobacco and textiles

WORK GROUP #2 (RAW GOALS)

- The State needs to look at successful programs such as CREP.
- From a low cost perspective, regulation of logging through mandatory BMPs could increase industry support costs.
- Move from "encourage" to "require" may be a question of authority or incentive -based.
- Localities need more support from the State on local land use goals in urban and rural areas.
- Need to recognize the importance of temporary measures and differentiate between temporary measures (e.g., BMPs) and permanent protection.
- The State needs to consider covering the whole state on Bay Act.
- "Permanent" needs to be "in perpetuity," and not able to be undone by the General Assembly.
- Need State support to more strongly link tourism and land conservation.
- Need a second phase on temporary protections, such as Riparian buffer program under CREP, to review and put under easements.
- Inventories are old. Need to identify the significant natural and historic resources - a coordinated state and local and national inventory - and need to set goals.
- Reliance on historic tax policy that limits economic development; need to reduce pressures on local governments that are dependent on Real Estate tax.
- Need consistent taxing policy.
- Dedicate a portion of transfer tax to land conservation.

WORK GROUP #2 (PRIORITY GOALS)

- Develop a statewide marketing strategy to increase public awareness of resources available to conserve natural and historic resources.
- Need operating budget for current programs.
- State needs to expand integration of Federal programs with State and local funding sources.
- Need a broad-based reliable continual funding stream.
- Natural resources agencies need to make funding of land conservation a State priority.

- The State needs to make a stronger case for budget requests.
- Support the viability of agriculture and forestry as an industry.
- Goals need to support rural economy.
- Focus on the private sector for land conservation.
- Broaden and expand age groups.
- Related to goal # 5 on programs and services.
- Incorporate environmental education and natural resources goals into SOLs.
-

WORK GROUP #2 (CONSOLIDATED AND PRIORITY GOALS)

(Completed by a sub task group during lunch)

- The State could strengthen existing tools and incentives for land conservation. (17)
- The State could increase funding and the priority for land conservation. (17)
- The State could develop a consistent overarching land conservation goal for Virginia that incorporates the existing C2K and 2007 goals. (16)
- The State could integrate economic growth and land conservation. (14)
- The State could support the viability of agriculture and forestry and the rural economy. (13)
- The State could establish the legal framework and/or authority for localities to support resource conservation. (9)
- The State could develop a marketing strategy to increase public awareness of the value of land conservation. (7)
- The State could enhance partnerships with federal, private, local and other state entities. (4)
- The State could encourage and reward development that minimizes adverse impact on the environment and give certainty to developers.

OUTDOOR RECREATION RESOURCES¹

I. Goals, Actions, Partnerships, And Other Implementation Steps For The Next Three Years And Beyond

On the first day of the Forum, April 10, two separate work groups each discussed what could be done to improve protection of outdoor recreation resources in the Commonwealth. Participants were asked the following questions:

- What specific goals and commitments would you suggest are do-able in the next three years and beyond?
- What specific actions would help realize these goals in the next three years and beyond?
- What specific partnerships and other steps are needed to implement these actions in the next three years and beyond?

For each of these series of discussions, participants were asked to indicate their support for the suggested goals, actions, and partnerships. The number of people within the work group that supported a particular item is indicated in parenthesis, e.g. (16). The numbers in parentheses should be seen as an indicator of the most supported or most immediately pressing ideas. It is very important to note, however, that a low number of votes for an idea does *NOT* mean that the idea was not supported. In a number of work groups at the Summit there was often broad support for many more ideas than could be demonstrated. Hence, ideas with a low number of votes should be given due consideration during the implementation phase.

WORK GROUP #1

ACTIONS FOR GOAL #1: STABLE FUNDING

- Prevent DGIF funds from being used for anything other than wildlife resources (ie keep them for use for their dedicated purpose – same should apply for state parks and for historic sites) Note: some parks are exploring other systems such as leaving some of the entrance fee money with the park itself rather than sending it all to DC) (11)
- Dedicated “outdoor tax” on natural resources and historic resources-ex. \$1 tax on all property sales in some states goes to outdoor rec.)(or percentage of every dollar spent would go to natural resources) (11)
- DGIF should be allowed to issue revenue bonds – also other agencies (6)
 - Clarification of the Bond issue: general obligation bond – the State backs
 - A Revenue bond is like a toll road where money comes in from
 - \$100 million revenue bond issued by DGIF (6)
 - Tipping fee- out of state garbage tax (2)
 - Increase tobacco tax (6)
 - Earmark portion of the sales tax (1)
 - Cultivate champions in the General Assembly (2)
 - Expand state regulated gaming with the expansion going to natural resources/historic areas (lotto, table games, etc.) (1)

¹ **Note:** Throughout this report the term “natural resources” has been used as an all-inclusive term which also includes historic sites, parks, etc.

- Agree – increase funding for natural resources (5)
- Characterize the Summit as a valid non-partisan group – everyone here is saying we need these changes – it is not just Governor Warner (3)
- Applies to stable funding and #8: recruit and recognize corporate supporters
- Bequeaths, tax include for corps, individuals
- Tax incentives for natural resources
- Fee structure of Virginia- we have the highest camping and cabin fees in the region- and they just went up 10%. Though hunting is relatively low.
- Saltwater license fee is low compared to other states
- An increase was considered but it was voted down by the General Assembly because they were afraid that however much the license fee was increased the budget would be cut
- {SUBMITTED IN WRITNG} “We have a funding problem in Virginia for natural resources – the big goal is a stable increased funding for natural resources – tonight – this group- should come together and say we want a stable funding for natural resources – If you do this you are determining a specific action step. Take this back to your local area – go in this direction and agree to support it - everything we have talked about here are great but without money to do it it will go nowhere. We would like to see DGIF be able to issue revenue (general obligation) bonds.” Charles McDaniel

ACTIONS FOR GOAL #2: MARKETING/ PUBLIC AFFAIRS/ EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

- Develop a case statement for financial needs in regards to natural resources – identify the needs and where to go
- Start at the easiest level - Educate the advisory groups for the different agencies in natural resources
- Incorporate the education for children in the SOL (2)
- Partner with colleges to mentor the younger kids-especially the elementary ed. Schools Ex. JMU students teach the programs to younger kids
- At the State Parks – have hands-on Best Practices demonstrations with pamphlets or other take-away info (2)
- Articles: series of short articles (white papers) which can be published in newsletters or websites. (2)
- TV advertising: PSA's and paid advertisements (1)
- Public-Private Partnerships: Electric company brochures or signs at State Parks and other corporate locations –electric companies, car dealerships, etc. (1)
- Interagency council – make it happen
- Program: C2K “meaningful outdoor experience” in their local watershed or in the Bay (1)
- Beyond the SOL's: Other education such as essay contests, photo contests (1)
- Each locality pick an endangered species to adopt and study (1)
- Utilize inmates to build trails, get the navy to construct artificial reefs, get the legislators to foster litter pick-ups
- Telecommunications: Use the internet! Online interactive program for kids to learn about natural resources (3)
- Establish and educate the public on the economic benefits of Best Practices – to individuals, to towns, to corporations (1)
- Public-private partnerships
- State Parks-let other agencies come to the parks to give talks or have pamphlets-cooperative educational opportunities Ex. Montpelier- is having teachers come to learn about the constitution. Maybe teaching

teachers on natural history at the State Parks which then becomes a network. Maybe something like this exists already? This could be privately funded (4)

- Internet to develop the environmental work each different agency does

ACTIONS FOR GOAL #3: PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS- INCLUDING TOURISM

- Interagency council – make it happen (6)
- Forest products-forest management - -- teaching degree credits
- Make the partnerships and education ongoing, not cyclical
- Marketing opportunities- increase the bucks! VTC coordinator, interagency council (5)
- Strengthen the public's awareness of natural and historic resources
- Summit – Continue to hold conferences, summits, meetings to continue the communication (2)

ACTIONS FOR GOAL #4: MORE PROTECTION OF EXISTING RESOURCES

- Insure a stable funding is always available if a site comes up for sale – have \$ available
- More urban state: re-evaluate standards
- Incentives to protect existing residential usage – recycle unused buildings
- all state agencies follow Best Practices within the agency- ex. recycling at environmental meetings
- Continuing education credits in environmental knowledge to realtors – make environmental stewardship just part of realtors thinking

ACTIONS FOR GOAL #5: EDUCATE PUBLIC OFFICIALS

- Couch the knowledge in terms people can understand (1)
- Group lobbying
- Encourage political activism (1)
- Lobby by individuals, groups(2)
- Lobby for corporate donations (2)
- Coordination among state agencies- - work together ex. Private business should know what natural resource is nearby them in order to promote it - whether it be a trout stream or whatever – have the private sector know where to go for this info(DGIF) (2)
- Clearing house/network of existing talents, programs, funds, facilities for statewide coordination of services
- Need good information presented in simple way
- Create a working group for the purpose of communicating the activities of agencies
- See VCN lobbying as ex. Of effective working with legislators
- Note: We need this Summit report to be simple – when it goes to the Gov. it needs to be tangible and easy to grasp
- Reassess state tax code – comprehensively – fix the inequities (5)

Additional Goals, Prioritized

- Go from #50 to #45 nationally in spending on natural resources in 5 years
- Increase outdoor recreation and historic recreation opportunities
- Facilitate public-private partnerships statewide among businesses (ex. Subaru-Mtn. Bike Trail)
- Preserve open land
- Increase insider education for agencies and groups about each other what each one does

- Develop a plan without a tax increase
- Conservation education for school age children
- Have the public pay for the fixed cost of existing wildlife (and wild lands)(marketing campaign on the existence of these)
- Eliminate political pressures on natural resource and funding

WORK GROUP #2

ACTIONS FOR TOP GOAL: DEDICATED FUNDING SOURCE FOR NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT (16)

- Governor could establish a plan to move Va. From 50th to 40th over the 3 yr. time frame (9)
 - Partnerships and Other Implementation Steps for funding goal*
 - Could develop better communication with the advocacy groups to reach the public and General Assembly with a goal of getting to 2% of the budget going to natural resources
 - Could form a taskforce to develop a funding strategy (could look at how other states fund natural resources. Mo. Added 1/8 to sale tax and constitutionally protected the money)
 - Could form partnerships to better use volunteers to supplement natural resources staffs
 - Could build on the progress made on H.B.38 (was superseded by H.B.30) and constitutionally protect the H.B.38 funding
 - Could organize a public/private partnership to develop a statewide marketing campaign
 - Could bring together the hunters and fishing groups with conservation folks to identify common ground for legislative actions
 - Could support schools and local recreation could partner and promote with conservation groups to educate children
 - Va. Tourism Corporation could become a revenue generator
 - Action could be taken local government tourism tax dollars stay in tourism (review requirements)
 - Could reinstitute tipping fee (keep at legislation)
 - Could raise hunting and fishing fees and allow sponsorship for hunting and fishing licenses (like vehicle license)
 - Could have a non-general fund bond referendum for the DGIF for land acquisition and capital improvements
- Have a non-general fund bond referendum for the DGIF for land acquisition and capital improvements (6)
 - Partnerships and Other Implementation Steps for dedicated/ restricted funding*
 - Ask for \$100 million revenue bond to be paid back by all statutory revenue. Therefore DGIF can buy land, repair, renovate for capital improvements (ex. Boat ramp repair). This benefits DGIF and parks and historic features on these lands (ask Governor to support)
 - Authorize DGIF board to set fees for use of natural resources
 - Pull all groups together to advocate for these shared goals. Inform all groups of the goals which are determined from this Summit.
 - Encourage non-traditional advocacy groups to work together with the traditional groups ex. Labor groups working for outdoor rec. in conjunction with their other issues (new jobs generated from natural resources)
 - Groups with lobbying funds – get them on-board with natural/historic resources
 - We need to get the message to the Governor that we need stable funding for natural resources
 - We need to write letters from the diverse groups involved in this Summit to legislators

- Dedicate funding stream – the features that attract people into the state do not get the benefit of tourist dollars

Partnerships and Other Implementation Steps for dedicated/ restricted funding

Comprehensive Review of Whole Tax Code

- We need to ask the Governor to direct The Dept. Of Planning and Budget to identify alternatives for increasing natural/historic resources
 - Expand natural/historical resources budget from 1% to 2%- which is a more stable level- this is not that much of a change from past levels of funding
- Va. Tourism Corporation could become a revenue generator
 - Action could be taken local government tourism tax dollars stay in tourism (review requirements)
 - Reinstitute tipping fee (keep at legislation)
 - Get all the stakeholders together to advocate increased funding for natural resources
 - Identify natural resources use items for a tax for natural resources
 - Raise hunting and fishing fees and allow sponsorship for hunting and fishing licenses (like vehicle license)
 - Non-general funds are not to supplant general funds

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: INCREASED PUBLIC EDUCATION OUTREACH TO VARIOUS STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (GENERAL PUBLIC, GENERAL ASSEMBLY, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, ETC.) (11)

- None listed.

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: TAKE ACTIONS TO PRESERVE THE CRITICAL VIEW SHEDS OF SCENIC RESOURCES/ASSETS AND DEVELOP GUIDES TO HELP LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ACHIEVE VIEW-SHED PROTECTION (6)

- Form a study commission to charged with the task of mapping statewide areas for special protection (8)
- Develop partnership to develop Federal grants: i.e., Identify creative uses of T21 funds to protect view sheds (priority)
- Develop a kid to kid education program/mentoring/speaker for natural resources

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO EDUCATE THE NEXT GENERATION ON NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES

- Develop a plan for a conservation stamp to expand on user base fees (9)
 - Could develop a curriculum on natural resources K – 12 with a focus on urban areas(6)
- Schools and local recreation could partner and promote with conservation groups to educate children
- Form a study commission to charged with the task of mapping statewide areas for special protection
- Establish Partnerships and incentives with private sector for “hands on” programs in the field
- Could improve coordination of programs that are already in place
- Provide learning boxes and in the field education
- Build a multi-use facility to educate teachers to teach the next generation
- Review other state models for programs supporting natural resources

ACTIONS FOR GOAL: WORK WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO COMBINE PUBLIC/PRIVATE MARKETING EFFORTS AND AD CAMPAIGNS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

- Develop Public/Private partnership to develop marketing for guides, calendars, and etc.

OTHER ACTIONS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIFIC GOALS

- Bridge commonality to bring together the hunters and fishing groups with conservation folks to identify common ground for legislation (7)
- Provide internships with private and public institutions in natural resources
- Identify a spokesperson to identify with natural resources
- Have a resource program to look at model
- Establish an advocacy mechanism for piggyback on broad coalition to pull together info., media, and slogans
- Work to have legislators to sign a pledge to give 2% general funds for natural resources
- Small business assistance in business planning and product development
- Establish an "Adopt-a-Natural Area" that would be geared to businesses
- Have a strategic plan that outlines visions, goals, and actions for natural resources
- Provide incentives for private timber landowner to allow the public to use their land
- Identify what user fees actually pay for and that it doesn't pay for the entire program

PARTNERSHIPS AND IMPLEMENTATION STEPS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIFIC GOALS

Interagency Council

- The existing Outdoor Recreation Panel which has a 5 year plan
- The outcomes of this Summit can/should be considered by the Outdoor Recreation Plan- this is a partnership

Communication

- Recognize forestry as part of natural resources (is currently under Commerce And Trade)

Other

- If we are to break down the silos which Governor Warner mentioned we also need to consider the privately held natural resources. Private land is part of natural resources- integration of forestry and private land as part of natural resources.

WORK GROUP #2 CONCERNS

- Over-reliance on user fees for parks (no longer competitive with other states because we are so high – highest in the southeast)
- User fees are a critical source of funding for DGIF
- How did we get to be 50th in natural resources expenditures? No body wants to be 50 – last
- Virginians do not know where their tax dollars go. We need to tap into the core values of Virginians.
- How do we build a more effective coalition and how do you justify the 2% expenditure?
- Non-general funds are not to supplant general fund
- Need to make sure the definition of “natural resources” include historic and cultural natural resources
- Need to address the issue of funding in order to achieve all other goals

II: Mini-Plenary Discussions

On the second day of the Forum, April 11, two consecutive "mini-plenary" discussions were held to enable input from people who had not been able to participate in the Fish and Wildlife Resources work groups the day

before. During these mini-plenary discussions participants were first oriented to the highlights of the ideas and suggestions that emerged from the first day of the Forum. They were then given an opportunity to:

- Identify gaps, issues, or concerns that had not yet been addressed.
- Add to or comment on the suggestions developed by the work groups.
- Identify which ideas or themes they would give their greatest support.

The following are comments and suggestions made during each of these mini-plenary discussions.

Friday Mini-Plenary #1

- Action Items
- Create more linear trails – with the designation of linear trails the buffer acreage is increased to the protected area
- Encourage county government to buy development rights
- Create legislation to allow localities to protect view sheds
- Need to balance property rights and community/government led preservation
- Train and support concessionaires in State Parks to have an ethical tone of service when working with the public – the public expects the service, forest needs fund benefit from the concessionaire
- Create partnerships with ‘friends of...’ groups who provide volunteers, fundraising, advocacy
- Create foundations to support outdoor recreation facilities and resources, i.e. cultural and arts community model
- Enhance the potential revenue of using hunting as a tool for wildlife overpopulation, in other places than just State Forests i.e. State Parks
- Enhance historic property easements
- Educate the tourism industry on the benefits of easements
- Enhance and utilize the tourism occupancy tax a source of revenue for natural resources
- Develop regional alliances to build on the commonality of tourism sites, attractions, destinations for increased income (when people stay longer at a site they spend more money)
- Add the terms “natural” and “historic” together with natural resources for education and marketing, fundraising
- The groups represented at the Summit could collectively research, educate, and market to legislators
- Increase the natural resources/environmental experience for all school children in Virginia –
- Educate and support people in professions to know and maintain good environmental stewardship practices into their everyday work and lives
- Plug into the recreational potential with every VDOT purchase in that land is cheaper before a road is built
- Review all state-owned and RR land to recognize the recreational potential
- Create a State revolving fund to by land which becomes available in order to protect significant geologic/biologic features.
- Develop a state-wide approach for a system of recreational ATV trails and thereby capitalize on potential
- Enhance regional opportunities for greenway and blueway “trails” (ex. John Smith waterway trail)

Friday Mini-Plenary #2

- Give DGIF the flexibility to raise hunting/fishing fees
- 34 State parks and hunting is done in 14 of them-there is an ecological benefit for controlling wildlife populations: disease control, protecting endangered plant species, etc

- There are concerns that increased outdoor recreation of certain sites may create conflicts or lower the quality of life for the locals
- The State could provide grants for local government for outdoor recreation
- Enhance eco-tourism
- Use a web-based technology to draw all parks together for increased promotion of all- State and local
- Develop a system of blueways- the State could play a part by identifying where these blueways are- local governments, citizens, groups could be given grants to then do something with them – the State provides leadership in helping to identify these
- Focus on the goal of economic development of forestry and agricultural and outdoor rec.
- Develop more linear parks, heritage trails, state scenic rivers and increase access to these
- Help protect the rights of landowners if we do the above
- Focus more on the waterways recreational opportunities as well as the land-based rec. opportunities
- Develop a study commission to identify the outdoor resources, fund them and market them
- Enhance the equine industry recreational opportunities and have the Parks work with and support these
- Work on the liability/insurances
- Educate people about Virginia Outdoors Plan
- Create public-private partnership in regards to the Va. Outdoors Plan
- Create incentives for collaborations across jurisdictions
- Use education and training to address conflicts that may arise between the same user group or between multiple user groups (ex. jet skiers and canoists, ex. Mtn bicyclist and equestrians)
- We need to collaborate on marketing and other tasks to save money, share resources, etc
- We need to collaborate with schools to work better with getting the education into the SOL's
- We need to create public private partnerships and get adversaries to talk, work together, plan together (ie developers, environmental groups, government, etc)
- Better link with the activities of the Community Colleges and what they currently offer
- Provide a better mechanism for public comment when public lands uses are being changed
- Capitalize on the growing birding interest; promote Va as an ecotourism mecca for equiners, birders, fishers, etc; better market our natural resources to these groups and in general
- Link with other task forces who are working on these same issues e.g. Governors Council on Outdoor Rec.
- We should be wary of imposing tax burdens on the industries which we need to partnership with – ex. The tourism occupancy tax should not be used for operation and maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities-it should stay focused on marketing and tourism efforts
 - Use some tourism money to support natural resources that are attraction for tourism
 - Be especially aware of collaborative opportunities and not drive a wedge between groups
 - Better help DGIF's efforts to link natural, historic, scenic features in order that visitors will stay the night in the area

III: Setting the Context for Discussions

At the beginning of work group discussions on the first day of the Summit, April 10, participants were asked to take some time to reflect on the trends that are currently, or would likely impact the resource in the next three to five years. Participants shared their thinking about the global, regional, and local trends, as a way of informing each other about their perspectives and the pressures perceived to be influencing events.

The following are notes taken during these discussions in each of the work groups. While there may be a fair amount of repetition among the work groups, these notes represent a wealth of understanding and a rich context for understanding the condition of water resources in the Commonwealth.

Local, Regional and Global Trends Impacting Fish and Wildlife Resources

- Facility availability needs to be within 2 hrs. travel time
- Lack of political will, recognition – there are billions in revenue in Virginia (example-Jobs generated, etc.
- Understanding of what recreation is
- Funding is a major concern– are funds going to come from the general fund or non-general funds
- Variety of acquisition means of properties –which is best?
- Who owns the resources? Wildlife, etc
- Is a License to pay the best option?
- There is a disconnect between who pays and who owns the resources
- Philosophical, ethical concerns – if a person is not a hunter, fisherman, they may not be included in discussion, they are not invested in the solution
- Taxes stable-no desire to raise
- Resistance to pay access fees “I pay taxes therefore why should I pay again to use a park, trail, lake, etc.”
- Bond referendum passed –so people are expecting something
- “The entities which are carrying the responsibility of caring for the people who are coming to enjoy the natural resources are not getting their fair share” – competition between the agencies
- Recreation stimulus sees no return on investments, e.g., parks, etc. Draw visitors who provide the economic benefit
- Visitors to the natural resources benefits businesses in a variety of ways- visitors come to a park but also support the businesses nearby-
- Marketing is lifeblood of tourism-
- Is there a willingness on Va citizens to pay more for recreation opportunities? Citizens do support spending, bonds, etc. We need a mandate which reinforces a commitment for spending
- “We need to redistribute what we have [what we are spending \$ on]or cut funding”
- This community represented at this Summit must back the Governor on a tax increase
- There is a lack of confidence on the part of the public that money is currently being spent on what is public opinion of priorities
- The public needs confidence that an increase in taxes will be spent on natural resources
- We at the Summit believe these issues are important – but the system is failing. Visitors are coming because of us but they are not leaving their money at the sites (museums, historical sites), We know its important but the challenge is communication the need of \$ to the public
- We need to inform the public that there are serious financial needs of natural resource sites- museums, heritage sites, etc.
- Virginia General Assembly needs to educate new representatives of needs, wishes of the home district
- What must happen to make funding for natural resources an election issue?
- We need to educate the legislators on economic benefits of outdoor resources and the need of generating funds to support them
- Dow Jones Poll said that the number of jobs in natural resources in one year in Va. is more than all of Europe (385m 1 one week) The money generated from the public's use of natural resources is enormous.
- The State Park Bond Issue 2002– the highest "yes" group was from African Americans, second highest was Hispanics – yet statistics show they are not coming to the parks; “We are not meeting the needs of certain segments of the public.”
- Certain topics touch everyone – regardless of ethnic background – moral issues connected to certain historical sites ex. Religion drove events
- There is a question of where do the fees go which the public does pay? To pay for the restocking of fish or where?
- Restocking Issue: determining accurate figures is a challenge depending on how you look at a location
- 9/11 has changed tourism away from the cities.

IV: Additional Notes from the Work Group Discussions

All work groups were assured that their work would be recorded and kept in the final record of the Summit. In this spirit, the following items are additional pieces of information that represent the work of the participants.

Work group #1 (Raw Goals)

- We need to increase the education to the public – the heritage sites, parks etc are attended by average homeowner's – this is a great opportunity to get out "take home best practices" "Save our world property by property" "We need to develop BMP to help preserve historic sites by pointing out the aesthetics of the sites" Our outdoor public sites are vehicles for education to the public on environmental issues
- Secure a stable funding for natural resources – and the marketing of them
- Try to eliminate the political pressures on natural resource issues
- Increase the opportunities for use of natural resources
- We need better ways to create business partnerships-Ex. Suburu and Mtn. Bike Trails
- We need to coordinate public and private tourism plans for sustainable development and marketing
- We need to educate the public on existence values of natural resources-those who do not pay- how are they benefiting
- Educate the public on how to support conservation- We need conservation education for school age children
- We need to protect what we have – ex. Historic buildings for which there is no \$ to purchase – We need some legislation to protect existing parks, sites plus protect these sites from encroaching development
- We need more "insider" education and communication between the agencies who are working on similar natural resource issues (Ex. DEQ/DGIF) We need to continue the interaction which has been started at this Summit
- Development of rural land- need more incentives for landowners to not develop – We need incentives to preserve open land
- We need to develop a plan without a tax increase
- 3 billion dollars are spent on bird seed and bird houses but people don't know how to care for birds such as cleaning the bird houses out 1x month with bleach to kill parasites—We need comprehensive education on what the public needs to do and can do
- We need to go from 50th to 45th in five years in our spending on natural resources
- We need to educate the legislators on the existence of and benefit of natural resources-and the importance of spending funds to help continue/enhance them

Goals (Distilled from above)

- Preserve open land
- Educate the public on how to support conservation
- Educate public officials and opinion leaders on existence of economic benefit and how the resource does not get \$ benefit from attracting tourism
- Educate property owners and citizens – Take Home Best Practices
- Develop a plan without a tax increase
- Need to secure stable funding for natural resources
- Pursue dedicated \$ sources for tourism marketing
- Need insider education of agencies and groups
- Need to continue the interaction begun at the Summit
- Need direct-user fees for specific resources
- Increase outdoor resource opportunities
- Coordinate public and private tourism plan for sustainable development and marketing
- More protection for existing natural resources

Work group #2 (Raw Goals)

- Could identify a permanent/dedicated funding source (example HB 38) for land conservation
- Could develop an association of guides and guidelines for organizations that would govern guides. Not regulated by state. The guides could be self policed
- Could put out documentation that show the impacts of natural resources dollars across the state

- Could have a Public/Private support for education public on the birding trail
- Could have outreach to local officials (county administrators) for preservation of open space.
- Could help business grow by the provision of capital funds for ecotourism
- Could combine sources of funds for marketing (more bang for your bucks)
- Could have a bond referendum for DGIF
- Could do more to educate the General Assembly and private sector (Capital incentives)
- Could develop a resource for private sector that uses the web to inform the public by zip code
- Could develop a guide for landowners to use when doing hunting leases and inventory for leases
- Could do combining of statewide funds for the use of tourism marketing statewide, education, branding of Virginia
- Get out of the cellar first. Move up from no. 50 in 3 years
- Could take actions to preserve the critical view sheds of the State parks and protect the scenic resources/assets. Could develop goals to help local governments achieve view shed protection
- Could pass liability legislation to protect the landowner in ecotourism activities
- Could have collaboration to review the liability of landowners work together to have comprehensive liability legislation to take to the General Assembly
- Could educate the future generations of outdoor recreation and the out of doors. This could start with teacher education.
- Could develop private sponsorship of natural resources education
- Could have across the board natural resource components work together for the promotion of sites
-
- Group all education under one goal

Goals and Commitments for the next 3 years (distilled from above)

- Could have a dedicated funding source for natural resource protection and enhancement i.e. land conservation, public facilities
- Could develop an industry association for guides that would be organized and administered privately (certification)
- Could develop a program to educate the next generation on natural resource issues
- Could develop a public/private partnership to implement the birding trail throughout the Commonwealth
- Could work to develop capital/incentives to encourage investment in natural resources programs (small business owners)
- Could work with the private sector to combine public/private marketing efforts and ad campaigns for the Commonwealth
- Could leverage business and communication technology (web, mapping resources)
- Could educate landowners on process (how tos) for access to land for recreation
- Could have a comprehensive review of liability legislation for impacts on landowners, guides, and others in the recreational industry
- Could develop better collaboration among advocacy groups on issues before the General Assembly
- Could take actions to preserve the critical view sheds of scenic resources/assets and develop guides to help local governments to achieve view shed protection

FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

I. Goals, Actions, Partnerships, And Other Implementation Steps For The Next Three Years And Beyond

On the first day of the Forum, April 10, three separate work groups each discussed what could be done to improve protection of fisheries and wildlife resources in the Commonwealth. Participants were asked the following questions:

- What specific goals and commitments would you suggest are do-able in the next three years and beyond?
- What specific actions would help realize these goals in the next three years and beyond?
- What specific partnerships and other steps are needed to implement these actions in the next three years and beyond?

For each of these series of discussions, participants were asked to indicate their support for the suggested goals, actions, and partnerships. The number of people within the work group that supported a particular item is indicated in parenthesis, e.g. (16). The numbers in parentheses should be seen as an indicator of the most supported or most immediately pressing ideas. It is very important to note, however, that a low number of votes for an idea does *NOT* mean that the idea was not supported. In a number of work groups at the Summit there was often broad support for many more ideas than could be demonstrated. Hence, ideas with a low number of votes should be given due consideration during the implementation phase.

During their discussion, participants developed the following criteria for recommending partnerships:

- Partners that will facilitate the objectives and with expertise (including funding, volunteer base).
- People that will move in a positive direction with a supportive attitude.
- Participants felt that partnership lists are appropriate and specific to each action, and gave full support for each partnership list.

Additionally, participants noted that categories of partners that would be most effective are the following:

- Trade Associations, Conservation and User groups, governmental agencies at all levels, private sector/industry and consultants, educators, landowners and agriculture, elected officials, local groups, citizen advocacy groups, general public.

EDUCATION

ACTIONS FOR GOAL 1: PROMOTE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES WE ARE CURRENTLY FACING AND ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF WILDLIFE AND THEIR HABITAT, AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES, AND PROMOTE A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP AMONG STAKEHOLDERS. (11)

- A statewide public youth education program that is based on the Standards of Learning and that has hands-on experience (e.g., Project Learning Tree, Wild, Wet, etc.). (9) (Mini-plenary #1: 6 votes) (Mini-plenary #2: 1 vote)

Partnerships and Implementation Steps

- Convene a workgroup appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Chesapeake Bay Alliance (which are effective workgroups and would be effective for these actions). Get buy-in from the Department of Education, PLT? A Virginia seal of approval for environmental education programs and providers, The Virginia Education

Association, National Wildlife Federation Weed and Backyard Habitat Program, Project Learning Tree, Science Teachers.

- Other Steps: Materials: create an environmental education CD to take into classrooms and for distribution.
- Make education a part of job description and performance evaluation.
- VIPNET

- Develop comprehensive clearinghouse for information that integrates multiple sources of information into a website that provides a comprehensive source of information. Link agency websites to highlight the comprehensive nature of natural resources in Virginia. (4) (Mini-plenary #1: 0 votes) (Mini-plenary #2:)

Partnerships and Implementation Steps

- See above.
- Direct Secretary of Education to make environmental education a priority.
- Place a priority at environmental education that is directed toward behavior change (i.e., stop littering because animals are attracted to roads and then killed).
- Focus on environmental education for adults.
- Development of partnerships with private education providers.
- Bottle Bill—develop a bill for deposits on containers/bottles that would be returned when bottles are recycled/returned.
- Identify and target audiences in need of behavior modification (e.g., alcohol consumers that litter, etc.).
- Develop recycling and education programs targeting specific programs for problem creators (e.g., Keep Your Workplace Clean program, which included bumper stickers on workplace trucks, etc.).
- Promote awareness of hunting and fishing via tourism marketing.
- Incentive-based initiatives: for pick-up trucks, impose a higher license fee for a truck without a cover or cab, no fee for trucks with a cover; households that don't recycle would pay higher trash fee (permit-fee incentive).
- Start Virginia Hunting-Fishing clubs (target hunt clubs) to promote awareness, ownership, and education.
- Recruit personalities to promote these ideas (Mel Gibson).
- Promote network of clubs (fishing/hunting clubs—users) with landowners—an access network through Virginia Department of Tourism.
- Brokerage for “Viewers” and promote new access to Virginia.
- Link agencies and partners.

FUNDING

ACTIONS FOR GOAL 2: IDENTIFY AND DEDICATE A SECURE FUNDING SOURCE INCLUDING DEDICATED ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES TO SUPPORT FISH AND WILDLIFE. (11)

- Check-off on tax returns for natural resources fund. (7) (Mini-plenary #1: 22 votes!) (Mini-plenary #2:)

Partnerships and Implementation Steps

- Nature Conservancy, VA Homebuilders Association, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Forestry consultants, VA Department of Taxation, Farm Associations, local governments, VML, VA Association of Counties, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, landowners, Forest Landowners Association, trail associations, the Taxation Division of the VA Bar Association, real estate associations, Ducks Unlimited, VA Forestry Association
- Other steps: pursuing conservation easements.
- Analyze and explore an amendment to Virginia Constitution to create to require a percentage of the state budget dedicated to natural resource conservation. (4) (Mini-plenary #1: 0 votes) (Mini-plenary #2: this was their TOP priority action)

Partnerships and Implementation Steps

- Just Do It.

- Require Department of Forestry to do the forest management on state lands (State Parks and reserves) consistent with prevailing goals. (3) (Mini-plenary #1: 0 votes) (Mini-plenary #2:)

Partnerships and Implementation Steps

- Department of Forestry, Game and Inland Fisheries, universities and colleges, and other state parks, Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Utilize private partnerships and matching grants to leverage limited State dollars.
- Review and raise license fees.
- Solicit more federal funds with the hope that private organizations would match these funds.
- User fees—review fees to see where we might increase or lower fee (e.g., a severance tax on living resources).
- Promote voluntary user fees for underdeveloped areas (such as access points).
- Create Conservation Fund from civil violations, etc.
- Review fines given for violations to see if possible to increase revenues.
- Landowner incentives for conservation.

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

ACTIONS FOR GOAL 3: IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATIVE SYSTEM FOR MANAGING FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE SYSTEMS. (11)

- Direct electric utilities to permit planting of significant size pilot plots for game and non-game habitat under transmission lines, with monitoring to determine results on bird populations and economic efforts on the utility. (4) (Mini-plenary #1: 0 votes) (Mini-plenary #2:)

Partnerships and Implementation Steps

- Dominion Resources and Appalachian Power, electrical cooperatives, electric utilities, NWTF, Quail Unlimited, Birding Groups, NWF
 - Other Steps: clearinghouse to simplify information for retrieval by Virginia's citizens
 - Combine agencies and Department of Forestry into one Department of Natural Resources agency. (3) (Mini-plenary #1: 3 votes, with a note that most other attendees thought this a bad idea) (Mini-plenary #2: this action was not supported by others)
- Partnerships and Implementation Steps*
- Secretary of Natural Resources comes up with a plan and presents it to the General Assembly—partnerships between agencies, Secretary of Commerce, Department of Forestry
 - Fund a Bay Ecosystems Model initiative (computer modeling).
 - Create a rating system for the environmental services provided by units of land, and require mitigation for dramatic alteration of land use.
 - Look for colleges and universities for a grant competition integrative management system.
 - One-stop permitting place.
 - Create a more integrative permitting program to include wildlife (require more fees).
 - Create a more sensitive monitoring system and response strategy to protect health and wildlife and ecological systems.
 - Encourage highest and best use of natural resources.
 - Develop a Comprehensive State Wildlife Plan by 2005 integrated systems planning and to qualify and receive SWG, etc., federal funding.

ACTIONS FOR GOAL 4: REDUCE AND/OR REVERSE THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF LAND USE CHANGE, INCLUDING HABITAT LOSS AND MODIFICATION, ON WILDLIFE. (10)

- Provide incentives for agricultural, forest, and other enterprises to plan for wildlife habitat. (5) (Mini-plenary #1: 9 votes) (Mini-plenary #2:)

Partnerships and Implementation Steps

- Sportsmen groups, hunting groups, user groups in general, agencies that assess fees, General Assembly, conservation groups
 - Other steps: constitutional amendment to prevent diversion of dedicated funds
 - Academic studies on economics of fish and wildlife conservation
 - Public involvement processes to build support for fees
- Use conservation easements to achieve the objectives of wildlife preservation and require BMPs for any land under conservation easements and development (must include wildlife). Continue momentum for preservation of open space. (5) (Mini-plenary #1: 2 votes) (Mini-plenary #2:)
 - Partnerships and Implementation Steps*
 - Dominion Resources and Appalachian Power, electrical cooperatives, Wildlife Habitat Council, landscaping companies, land managers and foresters, agribusiness, USDA (Farm Bill), Department of Forestry, Forest Service, Game and Inland Fisheries, US Coop Extension, private consultants, Natural Wildlife Federation, VDIF
 - Other steps: education for landowners, access to information, market the ideas, people in agencies
 - Electric utilities and other public and private land managers planning to improve habitat/BMPs regarding power plant generation and transmission.
 - Strengthen state policy to AVOID the land use effect before - minimize and mitigate.
 - Offer incentives for Chesapeake Bay landowners to bring their property up to standards for those who owned their land before the Bay Act went into effect.

ACTIONS FOR GOAL 5: PROMOTE LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF NATURAL RESOURCE BASED AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEPENDENT ECONOMY IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER. (8)

- Study and target 3-5 industry segments for consideration of Virginia's growing economic activities (i.e., aquaculture). (8) (Mini-plenary #1: 4 votes) (Mini-plenary #2: generally supported?)
 - Partnerships and Implementation Steps*
 - Department of Commerce and Trade, VDACS, seafood producers, educators, wine groups, existing industry commodity groups, educational resources in state, VIMS, VPI, VA State Universities, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, ecotourism groups, hikers, kayak paddlers, VA Department of Economic Development, hospitality industry, local Chambers of Commerce, farmers.
 - Potential growing industries: Wine, recreational anglers, aquaculture
- Encourage non-consumptive uses of natural resources such as: permits for private access, trails for tourism development, and increase access points for water activities including river trails.
- Encourage BMPs for any industry.
- Encourage highest and best use of natural resources.

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- Identify gaps, issues, or concerns that had not yet been addressed.
- Add to or comment on the suggestions developed by the work groups.
- Identify which ideas or themes they would give their greatest support.

The following are comments and suggestions made during each of these mini-plenary discussions.

Friday Mini-Plenary #1

Two concerns emerged as the top priority concerns

- Make natural resources (fisheries and wildlife) a core service for state government. Right now fish and wildlife is not considered a core service of state government. (24)
- Action under goal 3. Maintain the independence of natural resource agencies. Focus on additional revenues and relate to things that can be related back to the general public. (15)
- Nothing prohibits MOA between the agencies as alternative to combining agencies - as combination could result in loss of revenues rather than the expected increase in effectiveness and efficiency. Great deal of discussion, but consensus that it was not the right time for issue to move forward, rather that we unite around increased funding support.
- Create a Council on the Environment - a formal venue for integrating the functions across nontraditional agencies including citizens.
- Need more balanced representation on boards and councils - i.e., should have more nonconsumptive users representation on VDGIF board.
- Most important issue is the funding shortfalls.
- Concern about not a great deal of actions about commercial fisheries.
- Combine freshwater and saltwater licenses in a way that does not result in a decrease in the federal dollars that flow back to Virginia but results in one permit and more efficiency.
- Concern that BMPs should be voluntary regulations in conservation easements.
- Some landowners would prefer that DOF be in a separate secretariat of Forestry and not within C & T or Natural Resources secretary.
- Need to increase the support that fish and wildlife to be a priority.
- If Virginia is to be successful in economic development, it must have natural resources funding to keep quality of life high.
- Fair and equitable means for funding is a sales tax increase because everyone pays it.
- Fee based system on land use conversion to development.
- Need better project review and planning process: DCR Natural Heritage Division. Jurisdictions could require conservation site descriptions from DCR and T and E species info from agencies.
- Concern about the additional cost associated with project review and assessment that would make housing less affordable.
- Concern that combining agencies into a DNR is a bad idea. Loss of programs in fish and wildlife could be a result. Suggest that we eliminate this action.
- Give VDGIF and VMRC the right to raise their license fees without approval of the General Assembly.
- Give VDGIF the right to issue revenue bonds for purchase of land acquisition and improve capitol assets to improve fish and wildlife.
- Many of the tasks relate to very specific groups rather than to the very funding sources that need to be improved.
- Need a theme that the average citizen can buy into: Virginia is for Lovers, is for hunters, is for birders, is for canoeists.
- One objection to focusing on funding revenues generated from developers.

Friday Mini-Plenary #2

Concerns and Suggestions about Goals and Actions

- There is a big difference between education, awareness, and marketing. Need to add marketing to our goals and actions related to environmental education.
- Increased pressure from legislature via removing riparian rights to landowners and to put burden of hunting on private landowners. Setting aside place for access to hunting lands and fishing areas and wildlife viewing trails. Access focuses on demands for wildlife and must be balanced with maintaining supply.
- Great conflict around the need to provide for livelihood for fishers in balance with supply. Therefore access must provide some balance so that fish and wildlife populations are maintained a sustainable levels.
- Concerns about cultural differences. Many signs about stream and health advisory that are not written in Spanish.

- Changing nature of fish and wildlife uses is shifting to non-consumptive uses (passive recreationists) and viewing via trails - need to reflect this in agency administration and management.
- Hunters for the Hungry is a popular and growing program and needs to be highlighted as a partnership that needs support. Could one piggyback the funding for deer processing with processing Virginia's grass-fed beef?
- Incorporate education programs in fish and wildlife into the SOLs.
- To what extent do we have coordination between state fish and wildlife folks and the federal fish and wildlife agencies? Partnership between the US FWS and VDGIF could be enhanced. Easements for protecting wildlife while permitting living on the land.
- No actions related to the topic of invasive species and threats to wildlife and fish in Virginia Tech; should be addressed.
- Add certified (e.g., sustainable) forest management (Third party certification such as Smart wood guidelines, etc) as one of the economic activities to be promoted and marketed.
- Keep and protect VDGIF dedicated funds.
- Analyze and explore an amendment to Virginia Constitution to require a percentage of the State's general revenue to be dedicated to natural resource conservation. Education and conservation of fish and wildlife resources are in Article 11 of the constitution and therefore should be funded by general revenues.
- Utilities do not own the land; they have a right to run power or pipelines. So landowner has the right to plant wildlife feeding and state can support CREP programs to subsidize the improvement of wildlife habitats.
- Not reaching the general public in understanding what the state agencies do for the citizens of Virginia. Need marketing effort.
- Create a library within public libraries for natural resources education information.
- Comments on the suggestion of combining the agencies: shows a lack of understanding of how the agencies work and how they are funded. Support rethinking how the forest resources can be best served by state agencies. May have merit, but not good timing now. All need to unite and support the effort for more Natural Resource funding.
- Combine agencies within the Secretariat and Department of Forestry into one DNR agency. Most of the attendees thought that this is a bad idea. Interest remained however, in bringing DOF within Natural Resource Secretariat.
- Increase the overlap between VDOT and VDGIF to keep wildlife off the road.
- Need to get the Boards of Supervisors involved in these issues of fish and wildlife when developing their comprehensive plans, e.g., the watershed management process across the state.
- Co-location of utilities would make a difference, but localities do not have the authority to require co-location of utilities.

III: Setting the Context for Discussions

At the beginning of work group discussions on the first day of the Summit, April 10, participants were asked to take some time to reflect on the trends that are currently, or would likely impact the resource in the next three to five years. Participants shared their thinking about the global, regional, and local trends, as a way of informing each other about their perspectives and the pressures perceived to be influencing events.

The following are notes taken during these discussions in each of the work groups. While there may be a fair amount of repetition among the work groups, these notes represent a wealth of understanding and a rich context for understanding the condition of water resources in the Commonwealth.

Local, Regional and Global Trends Impacting Fish and Wildlife Resources

- Habitat loss is the primary source of loss of fish and wildlife, and wetlands are a primary goal to preserve through laws and conservation strategies.
- Increased urbanization and sprawl, loading of the Chesapeake Bay affects loss of habitat and wildlife species.
- There is an increased demand for the resources—national trend of eating more seafood.

- More people want to live by water and that puts more pressure on habitat areas.
- Management is very important and key for effective protection.
- When you lose habitat, you lose places to hunt and fish—it is very difficult to find places to hunt and fish today as opposed to 30 years ago.
- Funding is necessary to carry out these goals or programs.
- Fragmented management by government agencies - there is no comprehensive plan to preserve wildlife.
- Wildlife is not a component of land-use decision-making at the government level, and is getting worse.
- As economic stress on private enterprises increases (the agriculture and forest industry), the quality of management is lowered.
- There is currently a lack of coordination by state agencies.
- There is a lack of planning at the state level.
- Federal government decisions are often driven by economics. Preservation of wildlife and habitat not necessarily currently the priority in decision-making but is important.
- Goals don't address non-game wildlife - we need to consider non-game species.
- Organizations are managing systems rather than species, ecological services, and integrity.
- Conflicts among interests are built into the process, but the solutions aren't integral.

IV: Additional Notes from the Work Group Discussions

All work groups were assured that their work would be recorded and kept in the final record of the Summit. In this spirit, the following items are additional pieces of information that represent the work of the participants.

COMMENTS ON COMMITMENTS

- Agencies have obligations and commitments to regional and federal plans, laws, regulations, i.e., Atlantic Fisheries and Threatened and Endangered species (VMRC and DGIF).
- Concern that there is nothing in background paper on commitments of agencies to nongame and Threatened and Endangered species, especially now that funding is available and dedicated to it. Conservation groups united and working hard to get money want to see it used where agency promised and not diverted to other uses.

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ADVISORY COUNCIL

Provided guidance on the goals, structure, and invitation list for the Summit

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Greg Evans, VA Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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Mike Ellerbrock, Virginia Tech

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Kat Imhoff, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation

David Paylor, Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources

Dennis Treacy, Smithfield Foods

STEERING COMMITTEE

Provided assistance with all aspects of the Summit.

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Robert Carter, Department of Historic Resources

Wirt Confroy, Virginia Tourism Corporation

David Dowling, Department of Conservation and Recreation

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